



Chhota Rajan convicted for shooting hotelier B.R. Shetty in 2012

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Conte resigns as Italian PM, says Salvini harming nation for political gain

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SBI to waive processing fees on vehicle loans to boost loan demand

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Prannoy stuns Lin Dan in second round; Sai Praneeth also advances

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NEARBY



Yamuna swells, over 17,000 evacuated

NEW DELHI  
Over 17,000 residents of low-lying areas near the Yamuna have been evacuated as the water level continued to rise on Tuesday and was above the danger mark throughout the day, said officials. The water level at the Old Yamuna Bridge at 8 p.m. on Tuesday was 206.36 metres, which is above the danger mark of 205.33 metres.

CITY ► PAGE 3

Another AAP MLA disqualified

NEW DELHI  
AAP Sultanpur Majra MLA Sandeep Kumar was disqualified by Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Tuesday under the anti-defection law. He was disqualified for allegedly supporting the Bahujan Samaj Party and the action was taken based on a petition moved by AAP MLA and chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhargava.

CITY ► PAGE 3

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OPPORTUNITIES ► PAGE 15

## Kamal Nath's nephew Ratul Puri arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, in connection with the money-laundering probe into an alleged bank loan fraud case involving ₹354.51 crore.

Mr. Puri was produced before a city court that granted his six-day custody to the ED.

The arrest was made late on Monday on the basis of a First Information Report (FIR) registered last week by



Ratul Puri

the Central Bureau of Investigation against Moser Baer India Limited (MBIL) and others.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## CBI and ED teams visit Chidambaram's house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Teams of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate reached the Jorbagh residence of former Union Minister P. Chidambaram on Tuesday to arrest him in the INX Media case, soon after the Delhi High Court rejected his application for anticipatory bail. However, he was not there.

Late at night, the CBI pasted a notice on the wall outside Mr. Chidambaram's house, asking him to appear



ED officials at P. Chidambaram's residence in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

before the probe team within two hours of the receipt of summons.

The agency is also learnt

to have sent the summons through email.

'A CLASSIC CASE' ► PAGE 12

## Free to fly



**Unease in the air:** A woman walks amid fluttering pigeons on the 16th day of curfew in Srinagar on Tuesday. Sporadic incidents of stone-throwing continued in parts of the Kashmir Valley. The government plans a major outreach to bring normalcy by organising public 'darbars.'

■ NISSAR AHMAD (REPORT ON PAGE 13)

## NRC is an internal matter, Jaishankar tells Bangladesh

Remarks indicate India's stand before publication of final list

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) process, now under way in Assam, is internal to India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday in Dhaka.

Addressing a press conference after meeting his counterpart A.K. Abdul Momen, Mr. Jaishankar said, "It's an internal matter." He was responding to a question on the future of more than four million people likely to be affected by the process.

His statement is significant as it indicates India's official position just days before the final NRC list is to be published on August 31. In July, Mr. Momen had expressed concern about the



S. Jaishankar speaking to journalists on his arrival in Dhaka on Monday. ■ PTI

possible fallout of the final list on Bangladesh. More recently, on August 7, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan in Delhi.

## Time increased for NRC appeal

As the August 31 deadline for the final publication of the National Register of Citizens nears, the Home Ministry has said those who are left out will be given an opportunity to move the Foreigners Tribunals. The time limit to appeal has been increased from 60 to 120 days.

► PAGE 12

PROMISE OF HELP ► PAGE 12

## Chandrayaan-2 placed deftly in lunar orbit

Moon mission crosses a milestone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

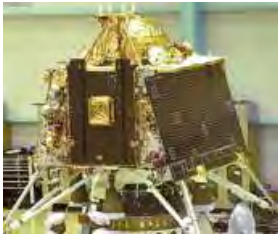
A nerve-wracking 30-minute manoeuvre performed from the Indian Space Research Organization's Mission Operations Complex here on Tuesday ensured that Chandrayaan-2, the Indian lunar lander-rover spacecraft, slid precisely into its planned orbit around its destination: the moon.

The Lunar Orbit Insertion was carried out at 9.02 a.m. from the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC).

It was a major milestone, K. Sivan, Chairman of ISRO, said at a media briefing after the event.

Around 9 a.m., a precise LOI [Lunar Orbit Insertion] manoeuvre was carried out for about 30 minutes to inject Chandrayaan-2 perfectly into the defined orbit," Dr. Sivan said. The spacecraft now goes around the moon in a pole-to-pole ellipse of 114 km x 18,072 km. Now that the orbiter is in place, the focus will shift to the Vikram lander riding on top with the small rover inside its belly.

Dr. Sivan said, "We will



The orbiter goes around the moon in a pole-to-pole ellipse of 114 km x 18,072 km.

now have four lunar burns starting tomorrow [Wednesday] at 1 p.m., followed by subsequent burns on August 28, August 30 and September 1. The orbit of Chandrayaan-2 will be reduced gradually from the present 18,072 km to make it orbit moon in a circle from a distance of around 100 km by September 1."

He said the next major event was slated for September 2. On that day the lander is due to separate from the orbiter and start descending towards the lunar surface - like "a bridegroom separating from his parental home and entering the bride's home."

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12



IN BRIEF

Schools to conduct water conservation campaign

**NEW DELHI**  
To mobilise the community about the importance of conserving water, the Delhi government has asked all schools to conduct awareness activities on water scarcity and importance of conserving resources. "Recent studies and reports by various agencies and institutes have indicated that water scarcity is increasing day by day in the country. Jan Andolan will be held in each school on August 23," a DoE circular said.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	97	Gurugram	78
Ghaziabad	114	Faridabad	75
Noida	102	Greater Noida	148
Good	0-50	Satisfactory	51-100
Moderate	101-200	Poor	201-300
Very poor	301-400	Severe	>401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB			

DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Seminar on "Psychological Science and the India-China Conundrum" by Ravi Bhoothalingam, Founder & Chairman of Manas Advisory. The event will be chaired by Manoranjan Mohanty at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies, Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Pursuit of Vibrancy", a painting exhibition of recent works by Sanjay Puneekar and Sakshi Talwar at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Ihled in Perspective", a solo photography exhibition by Rajan Bhatt at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "In Search of the Celestial", an exhibition of sculptures by Sandip Chakraborty at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.  
(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

# After 6-year gap, Delhi gets 25 new cluster buses

It is the first batch of 1,000 such vehicles that are to be inducted by the end of 2019

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday flagged off 25 new cluster buses as part of the first lot of 1,000 such vehicles scheduled to be inducted by the government by the end of this year.

Mr. Kejriwal said that the buses were part of a larger lot of 3,000 State-run ones scheduled to be inducted over the coming months.

In a statement, the Delhi government said the new buses are equipped with hydraulic lifts for differently abled passengers, as well as panic buttons, CCTV cameras and GPS. This marks the "beginning of onground augmentation of public transport overcoming all difficulties", it added.

"Today is a day of happiness for Delhiites, since it marks the beginning of arrival of 3,000 new buses for Delhi. There were a lot of difficulties, but I am happy that all those hurdles have been overcome and finally the delivery of buses has started and the first lot has today hit the roads," the CM said.

According to the government, the existing fleet of buses being operated under the cluster scheme, is 1,679 and the induction of the remaining buses under it was delayed primarily due to the non-availability of bus depot space.



The new buses during the flag-off ceremony in New Delhi on Tuesday. The vehicles are equipped with hydraulic lifts for the benefit of differently abled passengers. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

For safe commute

- Hydraulic lifts to facilitate boarding and alighting of wheelchair-bound passengers
- CCTV cameras for women safety
- Panic buttons with alarm bell
- GPS units for tracking buses
- Anti-vandalism seats

The last tender under the cluster scheme, the government said, was released on January 7, 2011, with the contract for their induction being signed on June 20, 2013.

The new buses are being procured after a gap of more than six years.

The Transport Department, according to the statement, has created depot space at Rewla Khanpur, Dwarka Sector-22, Kharkhari

Nahar, Bawana Sector-1 and Rani Khara -I, II & III, from where these 1,000 new buses will be operated and will cater to rural areas.

**More buses in September**  
According to the government, 125 more buses are scheduled to be inducted in September, 170 in October, 175 in November, 185 in December and 320 in January, 2020. In addition to the bus-

es inducted on Tuesday and those scheduled to be inducted till January next year, the statement added, 1,000 low-floor AC buses are also being inducted under the cluster scheme.

"The contract of 650 low-floor buses has already been awarded by the Transport Department for three clusters and these buses will start coming from January 2020," the statement added.

## 'AAP govt. fulfilled half per cent of poll promise'

BJP slams Delhi govt. for praising itself

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday attacked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for "praising himself" over the induction of 25 buses under the cluster scheme.

Reacting to the launch of 25 new cluster buses, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta "congratulated" Mr. Kejriwal for "at last fulfilling half per cent of his party's promise" made in its 2015 election manifesto.

"At least 5,000 new buses were to be inducted during the period of five years... achieving half per cent of the target is a 'great achievement' for the Delhi government," Mr. Gupta said.

Massive propaganda

"Though the government has been able to press into service only 25 buses, it is falsely boasting of launching 1,000 buses through massive propaganda. Moreover, these are not DTC buses but privately owned cluster buses," Mr. Gupta argued.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari Kejriwal alleged that the AAP government had is-

**At least 5,000 new buses were to be inducted during the period of five years... achieving half per cent of the target is a 'great achievement' for the Delhi government**

VIJENDER GUPTA  
Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly

sued advertisements at the cost of the public exchequer for praising itself on the launch of new buses.

Criticising the move, Mr. Tiwari alleged that the AAP government was "misleading the people of Delhi by issuing advertisements for 1,000 buses" even as he reiterated the BJP's promise of increasing the number of State-run buses after coming to power post the upcoming Assembly elections.

"Only 3,000 buses are left in the fleet of DTC. There is need of 20,000 new buses to make the services reliable in Delhi...The number of buses in Delhi is very negligible and announcement of free rides is a fraud," Mr. Tiwari alleged.

## AAP to protest against temple demolition

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will hold a protest at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday against the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for allegedly demolishing a Guru Ravidas temple in the city.

Earlier, AAP had alleged that the DDA had demolished the temple in Tughlakabad on August 10, while the DDA said the demolition was carried out following the Supreme Court orders.

Assembly session

Addressing media on Tuesday, Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam, said, "All AAP MLAs in Delhi will join the protest along with party volunteers from Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. The issue will be also taken up in the Delhi Assembly session which starts on August 22."

"Despite me writing a letter written to the Prime Minister on 12 August, and two days of protests at the BJP headquarters, the Centre has not taken any proactive measures to solve the issue of the demolition of the Sant Ravidas temple. Instead, the BJP government is trying to annihilate the voice of Dalits regarding the issue," the Minister said.

## Muslim body holds protest against Pak.

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The All United Muslim Mocha (AUMM) staged a protest against Pakistan, at Jantar Mantar on Tuesday.

Addressing the demonstration, Hafiz Ghulam Sarwar, the body's national spokesperson, said that Jammu and Kashmir was part of India.

"Due to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's mistake, it has become a controversial State between India and Pakistan over the last 70 years. We appreciate the brave step taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by scrapping out the defects in Article 370. It will definitely create peace at the border," Mr. Sarwar said.

## Miles to go



A differently abled man takes a break on a humid afternoon in the Capital. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

## Controversy erupts over statues of freedom fighters on North Campus

AISA says busts have been put up without permission

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad-led Delhi University Students' Union on Tuesday installed busts of V.D. Savarkar, Bhagat Singh and Subhash Chandra Bose outside the Arts Faculty on the North Campus.

DUSU president Shakti Singh said that it had been a demand of the union to instal a statue of Bhagat Singh, but had not been paid heed to by the university administration. Revolutionary Bhagat Singh was held at a build-

ing here on campus during the Independence movement and many people are not aware of this, said Mr. Singh. The busts of Savarkar and Bose were also installed as a way of paying respect to these freedom fighters.

All India Students' Association's (AISA) DU president Kawalpreet Kaur said that it was an attempt by the ABVP and the RSS to rewrite history by painting Savarkar as a prominent freedom fighter. Attacking Savarkar's legacy, she said, "This clubbing of Savarkar along with Bhagat

Singh and Bose shows the desperation on the part of the ABVP which wants to give legitimacy to Savarkar's vision of Hindu Rashtra."

Relocation of busts

The statues, Mr. Singh said were put up using funds collected from students and were installed without permission on land belonging to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation. While he said that any attempt to remove the statue would be opposed, the union was open to relocating the busts.

## IIT-D start-up bags award

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

An IIT-Delhi-incubated start-up working on the design and development of inclusive learning resources for visually impaired people won the award for developing a multisensory kit. The device narrates the content in the picture when a visually impaired person touches it.

Ankita Gulati, founder of TouchVision was awarded the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2019. The institute said that TouchVision aims at digital inclusion for 253 million persons with visual impairment globally.

## Be a top British official for a day

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The British High Commission on Tuesday launched a competition to give its winner the chance to become the High Commissioner for a day. It invited Indian women from 18 to 23 years of age to grab the opportunity to head the diplomatic mission for a day.

This involves overseeing the U.K.'s largest overseas network, leading daily briefings and getting involved in a range of work.

The competition will celebrate International Day of the Girl Child on October 11.



# Fourth AAP MLA disqualified under anti-defection law

Sandeep Kumar has been accused of supporting BSP

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
AAP Sultanpur Majra MLA Sandeep Kumar was disqualified by Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Tuesday under the anti-defection law.



Sandeep Kumar

 **Suspended MLA Sandeep Kumar, a disgrace, finally disqualified [sic]**  
SAURABH BHARADWAJ, AAP chief spokesperson

**Action based on plea**  
He was disqualified for allegedly supporting the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the action was taken based on a petition moved by AAP MLA and chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhargava.  
“Sandeep Kumar has been disqualified under the anti-defection law,” Mr. Goel said.  
Mr. Kumar is the fourth AAP MLA to be disqualified by the Speaker in the last 20

days under anti-defection law based on petitions moved by AAP.  
“The disqualification takes effect from 01.02.2019... Consequently, the Sultanpur Majra Assembly Constituency (AC 10) seat has fallen vacant,” an official statement read.  
“Suspended MLA San-

deep Kumar, a disgrace, finally disqualified [sic],” Mr. Bhargava tweeted. Mr. Kumar did not respond to any calls.  
On August 2, AAP MLA Kapil Mishra was disqualified by the Speaker under the anti-defection law. Mr. Mishra later joined the BJP.  
On August 8, AAP rebel MLAs Anil Bajpai and Devinder Sehrawat were also disqualified by the Speaker.

## Couple held for snatchings

They committed over 20 such crimes

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
A couple has been arrested for their alleged involvement in several cases of snatching across the Capital, the police said on Tuesday.



The duo, called ‘Bunty and Bubli’ by the police, in custody on Tuesday.  
\* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

They claimed to have solved six such cases with the arrest of “Bunty and Bubli”. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Monika Bhardwaj said the accused has been identified as Raju (26) from Palam Colony and his girlfriend Anjali (22) from Sagarpur.  
On May 7, a snatching incident was reported from Mayapuri in which the complainant said two persons, including a woman, came on a bike and snatched his expensive mobile phone.  
“CCTV footage was obtained and examined and local intelligence was also collected after which the couple was identified,” Ms. Bhardwaj said.  
**Acted on tip-off**  
The police said they received a tip-off on Monday stating that the couple would come to Mayapuri after which a trap was laid and they were nabbed. The duo had stolen the bike that was used in the com-

mission of the crime.  
During interrogation, the duo allegedly told the police that they have been involved in at least 20 cases of snatching and robbery.  
“Raju said he fell in bad company and started committing snatchings and theft. His girlfriend also indulged with him and at the initial stage, Anjali could not be traced by the police which increased her confidence,” the officer added.  
Anjali used to wear masculine clothes to prevent herself from being identified as a female pillion rider. The accused used to target people walking in parks and near bus stops, the police added.  
Ms. Bhardwaj said that while Raju is involved in 10 criminal cases, Anjali doesn’t have a previous criminal record.

## Body of U.P. ‘smuggler’ found in pond

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI  
The body of a 22-year-old man and an SUV were found in a pond in Rohini’s Kanjhawala on Tuesday, the police said.

A senior officer said the victim has been identified as Pushpender from Uttar Pradesh’s Kasganj. The police said they received a call from a man regarding an SUV drowning in the pond on late Monday night.  
On reaching the spot, they were told that the driver lost balance and the car fell in the pond. The officer said a few cartons of illicit liquor were also recovered from the vehicle.  
**A few hours later**  
A few hours later, a body was seen floating in the pond after. It is suspected that Pushpender was in the car and was involved in smuggling illicit liquor from U.P. The police said it is being probed whether Pushpender was alone or with someone.  
A case on charges of rash and negligent driving and under Excise Act has been registered and further investigation is under way, they added.



(Anti-clockwise from top) A man gathers his belongings before moving out of a flooded area near the Yamuna; evacuees wait for shelter, help from authorities; people line up for food at a relief centre. \* R.V. MOORTHY

# Yamuna swells, over 17,000 evacuated

Water level expected to peak today; many unwilling to move to government tents: officials

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Over 17,000 residents of low-lying areas near the Yamuna have been evacuated as the water level continued to rise on Tuesday and was above the danger mark throughout the day, said officials.  
“The people are staying in over 2,000 government-run tents,” an official said.  
The water level at the Old Yamuna Bridge, also known as Lohe Ka Pul, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday was 206.36 metres, which is above the danger mark of 205.33 metres. The water level had crossed the danger mark at 6 p.m. on Monday.

### Rising trouble

WATER LEVEL  
(at 8 p.m. on Tuesday)  
**206.36 metres**

DANGER MARK  
**205.33 metres**

HIGHEST LEVEL  
(September 1978)  
**207.79 metres**

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT

“We expect the water level to cross 207 metres between 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Wednesday. After this peak, the level is expected to gradually decrease,” the official told *The Hindu*.  
**‘Situation under control’**  
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the current situation is under control.  
“Inspected relief camps at Haathi Ghat and Kanchan

Colony set up by Delhi Govt. Interacted with people who have been evacuated and now staying in relief camps. Have directed area DMs to ensure availability of all the relief materials [sic],” Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot tweeted. A 55-year-old civil defence officer, Subedar Khan, who works at a government camp near floodplains in Mayur Vihar Phase 1, said around 170 tents have

been erected in the area but many people are unwilling to move in.  
“About six to seven families have moved to the tents till now and some are still shifting their belongings. Since the area has not been flooded much, the people are saying that they will come when the water level rises,” Mr. Khan said, adding: “They said that they do it every year but it will be a problem if the water level increases at the night.”  
Chetan Swarup, 40, whose brother lives in a shack close to the Old Yamuna Bridge, which has been flooded, said, “The level increased a lot today [Tues-

day]. Even the shacks under the bridge have been flooded and people have been moved out. Last night, my brother slept at the government tent.”  
The Northern Railway has suspended the movement of trains between Old Delhi and Delhi Shahdara stations.  
Trains will be diverted via New Delhi railway station, a spokesperson said.  
Not much rain is expected over the next 2-3 days and the mercury is likely to rise in the city, the Met department said on Tuesday.  
A fresh spell of rain is expected on August 25 and 26.  
(With PTI inputs)

## ‘Sunanda Pushkar was suffering from mental agony’

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Sunanda Pushkar was suffering from mental agony due to a strained relationship with her husband Shashi Tharoor, a Congress leader, the police on Tuesday told a court here.  
She had a scuffle with Mr. Tharoor resulting in various injury marks, a few days before her death, they said.  
They accused Mr. Tharoor of torturing his wife which abetted her to take the extreme step. The former Union Minister, who is currently on bail in the case, was charged by the police under Sections 498-A (husband or his relative subjecting a woman to cruelty) and 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC. The probe agency told special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar that according to the post-mortem, the cause of Pushkar’s death was poisoning and 15 injury marks were found on various parts of her body. Special Public Prosecutor Atul Shrivastava told the court that Pushkar was upset and suffering from mental agony due to the scuffle between the duo.  
The case is listed for hearing on August 31. Pushkar was found dead in a suite of Hotel Leela on January 17, 2014. The couple was staying at the hotel as the official bungalow of Mr. Tharoor was being renovated at that time.

## Man held for killing wife’s boyfriend

Victim died on the spot after being hit with iron rod

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man was killed allegedly by his girlfriend’s husband in south-east Delhi’s Jaitpur in the small hours of Tuesday, the police said. The accused has been arrested.  
Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East) Chinmoy Biswal said Kasim Shiekh from West Bengal allegedly killed Vinod Yadav, a resident of Shivpuri Meethapur. The police said they received a call at 12.30 a.m. regarding a murder in Shivpuri.  
“On reaching the spot, Vinod was found lying



Accused Kasim Shiekh

dead,” Mr. Biswal said. During investigation, it was revealed that Vinod was in a relationship with Kasim’s wife and he got to know about it.  
On Monday night, Kasim saw Vinod at his residence with his wife, said a senior

officer.  
An argument broke out between the two regarding the matter after which Kasim hit Vinod on his head with an iron rod leading to his death on the spot, the police added.  
**Fled spot after crime**  
The accused then from the spot but was nabbed in a few hours, the police said adding that murder weapon has been recovered.  
Mr. Biswal said Vinod lived alone in rented accommodation nearby and worked as a contractor while Kasim is a ragpicker and car cleaner.

## Delhiites breathe easy as AQI remains ‘satisfactory’

Air quality may slip to ‘moderate’ category over the next two days, says SAFAR

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhiites breathed easy on Tuesday with the city recording its air quality in the “satisfactory” category. The air quality has been oscillating between “good” and “satisfactory” categories, mainly due to widespread rains last week.  
On Tuesday, the city recorded an air quality index of 97 as against 81 on Monday.  
The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had on both Saturday and Sunday recorded Delhi’s AQI at 49, which falls in the “good” category.  
An AQI between 0 and 50



The air quality has been oscillating between ‘good’ and ‘satisfactory’ due to rain last week. \* FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

is considered “good”, 51 and 100 “satisfactory”, 101 and 200 “moderate”, 201 and 300 “poor”, 301 and 400 “very poor”, and 401 and 500 “severe”.

The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR), a forecasting body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, said Delhi’s overall air quality was recorded

## Water supply to be affected in many parts: DJB

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board on Tuesday said the pumping of water from Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla plants was affected due to high turbidity in raw water from the Yamuna.  
“Due to high turbidity in raw water from the Yamuna, the pumping from Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla plants are affected today [Tuesday] and likely to remain affected till the situation improves,” the DJB said.  
Water will be available at low pressure in Central and North Delhi, it said.

in the “satisfactory” category.  
The lead pollutant was PM10, mainly due to westerly winds and hence “dominant contribution coming from the western part which is relatively dry and dusty”.  
SAFAR said the air quality may slowly slip to the “moderate” category over the next two days.  
**‘Slow deterioration’**  
“Delhi and surrounding area are in low wind regime. Widespread rainfall is unlikely for the next three days that can lead to slow deterioration of air quality,” it said.



IN BRIEF



Woman set on fire: DCW notice to police

**NEW DELHI**  
The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Tuesday issued notice to the Delhi Police over a case in which a woman was allegedly set ablaze by her in-laws in Nizamuddin area. The women's panel said the notice was issued as only one arrest was made in the case which took place on Friday.

BJP MLA files complaint against Anurag Kashyap

**NEW DELHI**  
BJP legislator Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Tuesday filed a police complaint against Anurag Kashyap, alleging he has hurt sentiments of Sikhs through his web series 'Sacred Games'. PTI

Man arrested for using fake ticket to enter IGIA

**NEW DELHI**  
The CISF personnel has apprehended a man, identified as Vishal A Singh, at the Delhi airport's Terminal-3 for allegedly using a fake ticket to enter the terminal area, officials said on Tuesday. PTI

# Nuh village tense after interfaith marriage

Protesters demand the woman be 'returned' to her parents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Tension gripped parts of Ferozepur Jhirka in neighbouring Nuh after an interfaith marriage. In protest against the marriage, a group of people blocked the Gurugram-Alwar highway for several hours on Monday. The market also remained closed.

The protesters called upon the shopkeepers to keep the shutters down on Tuesday demanding that the woman be "returned" to her parents.

Mewat Development Board member and local BJP leader Mahender Kumar said the community could not oppose the wedding on legal grounds, since both were adults, but socially they were demanding that the Muslim community leaders interfere to "return" the woman to their parents.

"Interfaith marriage is a sensitive issue and could cause strained relation between the two communities. The Muslim community

**Interfaith marriage is a sensitive issue and can cause strained relation between the two communities**

MAHENDER KUMAR  
BJP leader

leaders have assured us to look into our demand," said Mr. Kumar.

Family absconding

Aalam Mandal, another BJP leader, said the law would take its own course in the matter, but the union was not socially acceptable. He said that efforts were on to resolve the matter amicably so that the communal harmony is not disturbed. He said the couple and the man's family are on the run.

The 20-year-old woman, an arts undergraduate student, had eloped with a 28-year-old man belonging to the Muslim community on August 14. The woman's brother dropped her at a college in the morning, but she left the college a few hours later on the pretext of

being unwell. She never returned home. Her family later reported the matter to the police alleging that the woman was kidnapped and a case was registered in this connection.

Sought protection

However, the couple got married and appeared before the Punjab and Haryana High Court on August 17 seeking police protection. The family came to know about the marriage on August 19 when the court order reached the police. The man is married and has two children. He has reportedly sought divorce from his first wife.

Superintendent of Police, Nuh, Sangeeta Kalia told *The Hindu* that the couple is yet to contact the police and their location is not known. "We will provide protection to the couple as per the court order after they contact us. The situation is under control. The protesters are holding peaceful agitation in the matter," said Ms. Kalia.

# Kejriwal moves HC against defamation suit

CM seeks quashing of complaint by Gupta; court lists case for hearing on Friday

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has moved the Delhi High Court seeking to quash defamation complaint against him by BJP leader Vijender Gupta and summons issued to him in the case.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri noted that there was a High Court ruling which said whether retweets would constitute an offence of defamation under the Indian Pe-

nal Code has to be determined during the trial.

The judge asked Mr. Kejriwal's counsel to go through the judgment to ascertain whether it would be applicable in his case. The High Court listed the case for hearing on Friday.

Mr. Gupta, in his complaint, had accused Mr. Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia of "maligning" his image by allegedly accusing him on



Arvind Kejriwal

Twitter of being part of an alleged "conspiracy" to kill AAP chief. Mr. Kejriwal has contend-

ed that he has neither made any defamatory comment against Mr. Gupta nor mentioned his name and therefore, the offence was not made out against him.

Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa representing Mr. Kejriwal in the case has argued that there were more than 3,000 retweets. Mr. Pahwa argued whether those people who also retweeted would also be considered as accused.

# Spell out steps to make currency notes user-friendly for visually impaired: HC

Court seeks response of Centre, RBI on the matter

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response of the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on steps they intend to take to make ATMs, online banking services and currency notes of ₹50 and lower denominations more user-friendly for the visually impaired.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar directed RBI to file

an affidavit on how it was going to make currency notes of ₹50 and lower values easily identifiable by the visually impaired.

RBI said that notes of ₹100 and higher denomination were identifiable by touch, but not the ones of lower denominations. It said the smaller denominations can be identified by their smaller dimensions.

The court, however, asked as to how a visually

impaired person was expected to measure dimensions of a note when making transactions.

RBI also told the High Court that it was in the process of developing a mobile phone app to identify the currency notes. Questioning the move, the High Court asked, "Will you also provide the visually impaired persons a mobile phone free of cost along with every ₹10 currency note?"

# NGT panel to look into pollution due to defunct STPs in Ghaziabad

Committee told to furnish action-taken report within a month

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging pollution in Ghaziabad due to non-functional sewage treatment plants, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a committee comprising officials from the Central Pollution Control Board and the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) to look into the issue.

Directing the committee to furnish a report, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "Let a joint committee comprising CPCB, UPPCB, District Magistrate, Ghaziabad furnish a factual and ac-



tion-taken report in the matter within one month."

STPs malfunctioned

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by Hindon River Resorts Pvt. Ltd. (and) others against the Ghaziabad Development Authority.

The plea had alleged that three STPs at Indirapuram had malfunctioned causing pollution.

"The plants are being managed by the GDA, UP Jal Nigam and Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam. The sewage is overflowing due to obstruction and dumping of garbage by scrap dealers on the side lanes of the open drains and due to encroachment by high rise complex and shops," the Bench observed while noting the allegations in the plea.

The tribunal directed the State pollution control board to be the nodal agency for compliance and coordination of the orders.

## Raising a stench



People walk past an open drain as pigs rest in dirty water in Gautampuri. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

# Plea claims pollution from cement in Shakur Basti

NGT panel to suggest remedial measures

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted an independent expert committee to look into a plea alleging pollution resulting from loading and unloading of cement near the Shakur Basti railway station.

Noting that various authorities had differing views on the matter, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "A report has been received from the Chief Goods Supervisor, cement siding of the railway station to the effect that sheds are damaged in absence of basic amenities near platform number 1 but at platforms 2 and 3, covered warehouses with full amenities are available."

"The CRWC [Central Rail-

side Warehouse Company] has denied the allegations and stated that its warehouses are fully covered. All its activities are within the closed and fully covered complex. Cement bags loaded in trucks are also fully covered," the Bench observed while noting the two submissions.

Noting that the petitioner had "disputed the stand of the CRWC," the Bench said, "We are of the view that an independent expert committee needs to go into the issue and suggest remedial measures."

The green panel directed that the committee will constitute representatives of the CPCB, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and two professors from IIT-Delhi and Kanpur.

# Court lets off mother-in-law in dowry death case

Victim's mother gave contradictory statements, witnesses turned hostile in court

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has acquitted the mother-in-law of a woman who died at her matrimonial home in north-west Delhi in 2013.

The Delhi Police had lodged a case of subjecting the victim to cruelty and abetting her to take her life for dowry against the accused on a direction by a magistrate court when the probe agency refused to register an FIR on the basis of

statements of the mother and brother of the deceased before the area SDM.

Brother turns hostile

Victim's brother turned hostile during the trial, while her mother gave contradictory versions in her evidence in the court. She also alleged that the SDM had forcibly taken her signatures on her statement.

"This court is of the opinion that the court testimony of the victim's mother may

be an attempt to implicate accused in order to take revenge on the death of her daughter. The actual reasons for her ending life are not known," Additional Sessions Judge wrote in the judgment.

"Contradictions in the testimony of victim's mother with her statement recorded by SDM have been brought on record during the cross-examination of this witness. In her statement before SDM, she specifically stated that she had no knowledge

that there was any quarrel of deceased with her husband or mother-in-law [accused]," the judge said.

Other witnesses, who were neighbours of the accused, also turned hostile.

"There is nothing in the entire testimony of witnesses that the accused had any knowledge that her daughter-in-law could have ended life. Hence, it cannot be said that the accused instigated her to do so....," the judge said.

# Noida builder booked for forging Allahabad HC order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NOIDA

A builder here, who allegedly tried to avoid paying dues of ₹26.80 crore his firm owed to the Noida Authority by forging an Allahabad High Court order, has been booked for fraud and forgery, officials said on Tuesday.

Sushant Agrawal, director of ET Infrastructure, owed the amount to the Noida Authority in connection with Plot C1 in Sector 16,

they said.

"Agrawal came to the Authority office on July 20 and met officials claiming he has an order from the Allahabad HC which states that his dues of ₹26.80 crore not be taken. He said the court has passed the order on March 14," a Noida Authority spokesperson said.

"However, when our officials probed the matter it turned out that the High Court had not passed any such order," he added.

# Bringing baoli back to life

A *baoli* at Arab Ki Sarai is being revived where heritage and water conservation are being given equal weightage

MADHUR TANKHA  
NEW DELHI

At a time when many areas in Delhi and multiple cities across the country are facing acute water shortage, Mughal Emperor Jahangir-built *baoli* at Arab Ki Sarai can become a harbinger of hope for water conservation. It is being revived with the twin purpose of heritage and water conservation.

The *baoli* has historical significance as Emperor Jahangir would have drank water from the well, near the *baoli* and perhaps interacted with traders, coming from far and wide, as they sold their wares near this 16th

century walled enclosure that stands within the Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO world heritage site.

Taking a lesson from *baolis* that highlight traditional wisdom and are a sort of guidebook for water conservation, policy makers and environmentalists need to work on these lines in the current scenario when water is required for irrigation, fountain or watering the gardens. In olden days, it was also used for washing domestic animals.

Crossing the hurdle

So far, the biggest challenge has been to ensure structural



Construction work in progress at the baoli within Humayun's Tomb. ■R.V. MOORTHY

stability and that the ongoing work is carried out in a systematic manner to prevent further collapse.

Comprising a circular well, this *baoli* can be accessed by a steep flight of steps. What made the work – part of ASI-AKTC project with support of the German Embassy – challenging for the team was that a roof that

covered the well had collapsed. This made conservation work risky and slow. "Many structural elements in the *baoli* have collapsed or are in an advanced state of collapse. The main walls of *baoli* were beyond repair and required urgent measures to prevent further deterioration," said a heritage conservationist, working

with the ongoing project.

Throwing light on the project, which started in April, Aga Khan Trust for Culture head Ratish Nanda, who is credited with restoring *baolis* in Hyderabad where the collected water is used for irrigation, said: "Indeed, water conservation is critical. This *baoli* will also recharge groundwater aquifers. To en-

able this, grounds around *baolis* are being regraded. Currently, we have piped water for irrigation,"

To revive the original function of *baoli*, AKTC also plans to re-grade the earth within the Arab Ki Sarai bazaar to collect rainwater within the *baoli*, a catchment area of 1.5 lakh litres.

Noting that water conservation is the need of the hour, Mohammad Imran, who works with ASI and looks after conservation work at Humayun's Tomb, evinced hope that water once treated properly would have multiple usage.

Giving his take on the conservation work carried out by experts, noted chronicler of history, R.V. Smith says: "Most *baolis* are neglected. They should be utilised as Delhi and surrounding areas are facing water shortage. Heritage conservationists need to think on those lines. They need to visualise how they were used during the Mughal era and how they can be used in the present times."



DELHI  Timings		
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:55
RISE	22:25	SET 10:38
THURSDAY, AUG. 22		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:54
RISE	23:00	SET 11:33
FRIDAY, AUG. 23		
RISE	05:55	SET 18:53
RISE	23:39	SET 12:28

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	26
Safdarjang	35	26
Palam	35	26

**Delhi Palam Today**  
**36°C** A hazy and comfortable morning. Day will be warm with partly cloudy sky.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
**35°C** Dry and warm weather with light breeze to continue. A comfortable night.

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## Councillor ‘beaten up’ by police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

A councillor has said that he was allegedly beaten up by the police for protesting against the removal of encroachment in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan.

The incident happened on Monday evening when police and administration officials were removing encroachment, put up by the members of a nomadic community, in compliance with a court order in Nagar town.

Vedprakash, the councillor and the community members, objected to the drive following which the policemen allegedly thrashed him.

“It was when the dharna was concluded, police came and beat me. They slapped and took me to the police station and I was arrested,” the councillor, who was released last night, said.

Nagar police station SHO Kailash Chand Meena said Mr. Vedprakash was obstructing the officials from doing their job.

“He was arrested under section 152 of CrPC and later released,” the SHO said.

## Woman in U.P. forced to deliver on hospital floor

Staff refused to provide bed: kin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
FARRUKHABAD

A woman was forced to deliver a baby on the corridor of a State-run hospital here after the staff failed to provide her a bed.

Sanjo, 34, from Runi village under the Jehanabad police station area, was brought to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital late on Sunday night. But instead of admitting her, the hospital staff told her that there were no beds available, the woman’s family members alleged on Tuesday.

She then delivered the baby on the floor in a corridor of the hospital, her husband Sujit said.

## Demand for tobacco vendor licensing

Will reduce children’s access to tobacco products in Rajasthan, say activists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

After the successful ban on e-cigarettes, a demand has been raised in Rajasthan for the enforcement of vendor licensing mechanism to control and regulate the sale of tobacco products. Licensing is expected to act as a major deterrent, which will especially reduce children’s access to cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced a complete ban on production, distribution, advertisement and sale of e-cigarettes on May 30 last, a day before World No Tobacco Day. He said the ruling Congress had promised to take steps to

# AAP blames Cong., SAD-BJP govts. for floods in Punjab

‘Chief Minister Amarinder succumbed to the pressure of sand mafia’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

As Punjab faced the fury of floods during the past four days, the Aam Aadmi Party has blamed the successive BJP-SAD and Congress governments in the State and at the Centre for the widespread loss of life and property in the State.

Aam Aadmi Party’s Harpal Singh Cheema, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, and party’s State farmer wing chief Kultar Singh Sandhwan said on Tuesday that floods have been creating havoc in Punjab time and again yet successive governments failed to address the problem. Had the governments been sensitive about the concerns of the people of the State, these rivers would



People move to safer places after water of the Satluj river entered villages in Jalandhar on Tuesday. ■ ANI

have proved to be a boon than a curse.

**Corruption alleged**  
The AAP leaders alleged that the corruption-ridden irrigation and drainage depart-

ment in connivance with the sand mafia lording over these rivers and enjoying political clout were responsible for the resultant loss of life and property.

They alleged that Chief

## U.P. Cabinet reshuffle today

Likely to fill slots that have fallen vacant in last few months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

The first reshuffle of the Yogi Adityanath Ministry in Uttar Pradesh will take place on August 21, a Raj Bhavan official said on Tuesday.

The reshuffle, and the possible induction of new members, is likely to fill the slots that have fallen vacant in the last few months, particularly after some Ministers got elected to the Lok Sabha.

This will be the first Cabinet reshuffle after Mr. Adityanath took charge in the State in March 2017, heading a 47-member ministry.

Three of the 47 Ministers – Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Satyadev Pachauri and S.P. Singh Baghel – were elected to the Lok Sabha in May.

Another Minister, Om Prakash Rajbhar, who heads the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, was sacked for causing embarrassment to the BJP-led government with



CM Yogi Adityanath

his outbursts against the saf- fron party.

The Raj Bhavan official said the swearing-in will be held at the Gandhi Bhawan auditorium at 11 a.m.

There had been speculation over the reshuffle during the past few days.

A Raj Bhavan official had on Sunday said the event was slated for the next day, only to retract hours later saying “no request” was received from the State go-

vernment for it.

Mr. Adityanath called on Governor Anandiben Patel on Saturday, a day after he met BJP president Amit Shah in Delhi, triggering talk of a possible rejig any day.

The recent appointment of OBC leader and Uttar Pradesh Minister Swatantra Dev Singh as the BJP’s state unit chief also put the spotlight on a possible reshuffle of the Cabinet.

**one person-one post**

According to the BJP’s “one person-one post” principle, Mr. Singh could not simultaneously hold the positions of a Minister and the State party chief.

He resigned as Minister of State (independent charge) for Transport and Protocol on Monday.

Mr. Singh replaced Mahendra Nath Pandey, who gave up the organisational post after he was inducted into the Union Cabinet.

# Yamuna records highest water level in Haryana

Families evacuated from low-lying areas in four districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Incessant rain over the past few days has made the Yamuna river in Haryana record its highest water level till date, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Haryana Chief Secretary Keshni Anand Arora said that in the wake of the floods, 25 families have been safely evacuated from Sonapat and Karnal districts.

**Review meeting**

She was participating in a review meeting through video-conferencing held on the flood situation in Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi, under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary (government of India) Pradeep Kumar Sinha.

Ms. Arora said 8.14 lakh



A woman shifts her belongings as the water level rises in the Yamuna in Delhi on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

cusecs of water was recorded in the Yamuna in 2013, which was the highest till then. But due to above average rainfall in the last few days, this year, so far, the water level in Yamuna has increased to 8.28 lakh cusecs. “The Yamuna water would reach the Capital by this evening and the admi-

nistrative officials in Delhi have already been alerted about this,” she said.

She said that after Delhi, the water would reach Fari-dabad and Palwal districts of Haryana, and therefore, about 500 families have already been evacuated from the low-lying areas along these two districts.

## Nature strikes



An oil tanker came under a boulder after a landslide near Rohtang on Tuesday which blocked the Leh-Manali Highway. ■ ANI

## Rajasthan on high alert over terror threat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

The police have sounded a high alert across the State after information was received that four terrorists have infiltrated into India along with an agent of Pakistan’s intelligence agency ISI.

All district superinten-

dents of police in the State have been asked to stay vigilant. Sketches of all the terrorists have also been released, a senior official said on Tuesday.

He said the high alert was issued after information was received that four terrorists have infiltrated into India on

Afghan passports along with the ISI agent.

**Intensive search**

The official said police have been instructed to carry out intensive searches at hotels, dhabas, railway stations, bus stands and in congested areas.

Apart from this, the movement of suspicious vehicles is also being monitored. Police personnel have been asked to remain fully alert and interrogate suspects, he said. Sirohi SSP Kalyanmal Meena said all police officers in the district have been asked to remain vigilant.



# Odisha to implement Centre’s ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ scheme

Ration card portability will begin from Sept. 1 in Bhubaneswar, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has announced that it will implement the Centre’s ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ initiative in the State starting from September 1.

According to State Minister for Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Ranendra Pratap Swain, the initiative will be implemented on a pilot basis for ration card holders under the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, and subsequently across the State.

“We are going to introduce ration card portability on a pilot basis in Bhubaneswar, and it will be replicated in other parts of the State in a phased manner,” said Mr. Swain.

The Central government’s ‘One Nation, One Ration



Ranendra Pratap Swain.  
■ FILE PHOTO

Card’ initiative was launched recently. Once implemented fully, it will enable the beneficiaries to procure ration from any fair price shop across the country.

### Aadhaar link

The Minister said the beneficiaries under both the National Food Security Act and the State Food Security

Scheme will be able to get their ration items from any public distribution shop.

An official of the Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department said the ration cards will be linked to the Aadhaar card of the beneficiaries.

This will prevent those having multiple ration cards from procuring ration from two shops at different places.

However, the beneficiaries, who cannot enrol themselves in Aadhaar due to some reasons, will continue to get the benefits by producing certificates issued by the authorities concerned.

The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department has directed the Khurda district administration to implement the scheme in 127 fair price shops in 67 wards

of the BMC from September 1, the officials said.

### Deadline Aug. 31

The beneficiaries will have to give their finger prints on a machine to avail rations, the officials added. The State government has set the deadline for linking Aadhaar number with the ration cards till August 31.

At present, the beneficiaries covered under NFSA and State Food Security Scheme get five kg subsidised food-grains per head every month. The State government has also rolled out a pilot project in Malkangiri district to supply fortified rice grains containing iron, folic acid, Vitamin A and Vitamin B12 to reduce malnutrition among the PDS beneficiaries.

(With PTI inputs)

## No idle time



Men preparing Lord Ganesha idols at a workshop ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi in Kolkata on Tuesday. ■PTI

# Swachh Saathis to be deployed

They would bring about changes regarding waste collection

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has mooted deploying ‘Swachh Saathis’, ground-level workers, who would act as agents to bring about collective behavioural changes at the household level regarding waste collection.

They would raise awareness on collection of segregated waste to ensure decentralising of wet waste and collection of dry waste.

Swachh Saathis, who will be nominated by women self-help groups of the locality, must not have educational qualification below

Class XII. In the event of unavailability of suitable candidates, the SHG can make relaxation in the criterion.

Apart from demonstrating segregation of waste, the Swachh Saathis will also explain method of composting, preferably micro composting, in the locality.

### Incentive suggested

The government has suggested that an incentive of ₹4,000 per month should be paid to Swachh Saathis for every 600 households.

“The incentive will be given directly to the women self-help group and not to the Swachh Saathis. The

groups are, however, free to use one or more members for performing the assigned responsibilities,” said a senior officer.

The State government is now emphasising on collection of basic statistics on the map of urban local bodies with ward boundary, roads, parks, bulk waste generators, commercial areas and other land masses.

Besides, demographic details will be collected. It will help authorities quantify waste generation. “This will enable us to put a dynamic solid waste management system in place,” he said.

## Mamata hits out at para-teachers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has hit out at para-teachers for launching an agitation demanding salary hike, instead of taking classes.

Para-teachers, contractual educators in government and government-aided schools of the State, had

recently staged a protest in Nadia’s Kalyani, following which they were allegedly caned by the police.

Mentioning that the para-teachers had been recruited by the previous Left Front regime, Ms. Banerjee claimed that her government had effected a substantial rise in their salary from ₹4,000 in 2011-12.

# March 2022 deadline set for Arunachal’s Hollongi airport

The project triggered fall of Cong., upsurge of BJP in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Union Civil Aviation Minister has set March 2022 as the deadline for completion of a greenfield airport that triggered the fall of the Congress and upsurge of the BJP in Arunachal Pradesh.

Hollongi airport near Itanagar was among a slew of projects for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone in February. The airport is estimated to cost ₹1,200 crore.

Union Minister of State (Independent) for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri, during a videoconference with Arunachal Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, said that the Centre would assist the State to ensure that the Hollongi airport is completed by March 31, 2022.

### Helipads at 5 sites

The focus of the discussion was also on developing helipads at five strategic locations in Arunachal Pradesh,

apart from Tawang. The State government suggested air connectivity between India and Bhutan via the Tawang helipad.

The Hollongi airport project has been a touchy topic for successive governments in Arunachal Pradesh. It was one of the major reasons why the former Congress government headed by Nabam Tuki fell and the BJP came to power in the State.

### Site change

The airport was initially scheduled to be built at Karsingsa, also near Itanagar, where former Union Minister Shivraj Patil had laid the foundation stone in 2008. The Tuki government rejected the site in 2012 due to “geographical complications” and opted for Hollongi.

In October 2015, former Governor Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa wrote to PM Modi that the proposed airport at Hollongi be scrapped to save ₹1,150 crore, including ₹500

crore in land compensation.

He advised upgrading the Lilabari airport in Assam’s North Lakhimpur town, adding that he was echoing the suggestion of Opposition leaders, students’ organisations and social activists in Arunachal Pradesh. Mr. Rajkhowa’s letter stated that Mr. Tuki, his cousin and former Assembly Speaker Nabam Rebia and other relatives own most of the land in Hollongi “because of which the original site for the airport was moved”.

The cold war between Mr. Rajkhowa and Mr. Tuki intensified and led to the latter’s ouster in January 2016. The Supreme Court reinstated Mr. Tuki as the Chief Minister in July that year. However, Mr. Tuki quit handing over the reins to Pema Khandu, who first headed a Congress government that changed to the regional People’s Party of Arunachal before switching to the BJP in December 2016.

# CBI probe not linked to politics: Sovan Chatterjee

Kolkata ex-Mayor joined the BJP recently

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Former Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chatterjee, who is being investigated for cash-on-camera scam, said politics and probe are not connected and that he can serve the BJP while being probed by the central agencies.

Mr. Chatterjee, once the top confidant of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, had joined the BJP last week. He addressed a press conference at the BJP office in Kolkata on Tuesday with party’s State president Dilip Ghosh by his side.

In 2014, Mr. Chatterjee was seen in videos along with other Trinamool Congress leaders purportedly accepting cash on camera.

On the ongoing Narada-probe by the central agencies, Mr. Chatterjee said a probe did not mean that he was guilty. “Probes by ED and CBI are ordered by the Supreme Court. There is a huge difference between being accused and proven guilty. It is not correct to link



Sovan Chatterjee.  
■ FILE PHOTO

the investigation to political decisions which people are making,” he said.

### ‘Loyal soldier’

Responding to questions on whether he will contest against Ms. Banerjee, Mr Chatterjee said he will do whatever the BJP asks him to do. “When I was in Trinamool, I was a loyal soldier of that party. Now I have joined the BJP and will remain its loyal soldier. I will do whatever my party asks me to do. If they ask me to contest against Mamata Banerjee in next election, I will do so,” he said.











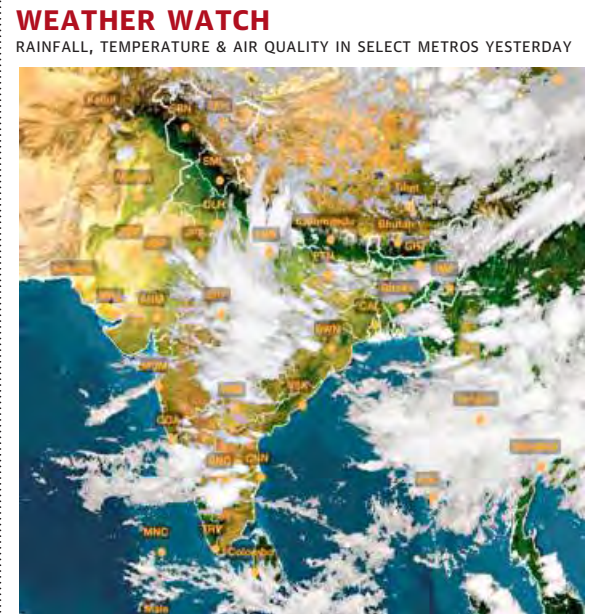


**Raj Thackeray to appear before ED**  
MUMBAI  
Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray will appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) which has summoned him in the IL&FS scam probe, the party said on Tuesday. In a statement, Mr. Thackeray said he would “honour” the summons, and appealed to his workers to maintain “peace and harmony”. PTI

**M-sand policy coming in three months**  
CHENNAI  
In three months, Tamil Nadu will put in place an M-sand policy to promote its use as an alternative building material and eliminate sub-standard products through regulation of trade.

**Woman gets job on fake papers, works for 17 yrs.**  
MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)  
A woman who got a government teacher’s job by submitting fake documents and worked for 17 years before being caught has now been arrested here, police said on Tuesday. Pervaish Kumari was arrested at Tugalpur village in Purquazi block on Monday, Sub Inspector (Crime Branch) Vijaypal Singh said. He said Kumari was appointed as a primary school teacher in 2000 and dismissed in 2017. PTI

**BSF inspector killed, jawan injured in clashes**  
KOLKATA/GUWAHATI  
A BSF inspector was killed and a jawan critically injured in clashes with cattle smugglers in separate incidents along the India-Bangladesh international border in Assam and West Bengal respectively, officials said on Tuesday. The first incident took place on Sunday in Dhubri. The second took place near the Gobardah border post on Tuesday.



WEATHER WATCH  
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan, east Uttar Pradesh, west Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, coastal and south interior Karnataka, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	34.3	27.2	Kozhikode	...	31.2	24.8
Ahmedabad	0.3	33.0	25.9	Kurnool	33.9	31.5	24.2
Aizawl	...	29.2	22.2	Lucknow	0.6	33.6	26.0
Allahabad	41.3	34.0	26.0	Madurai	...	...	...
Bengaluru	17.6	29.0	20.1	Mangaluru	43.6	29.3	22.5
Bhopal	9.2	31.7	22.0	Mumbai	1.0	31.7	25.5
Bhubaneswar	...	33.8	26.2	Mysuru	...	30.9	20.4
Chandigarh	1.8	33.0	24.0	New Delhi	...	34.4	25.6
Chennai	...	...	...	Patna	...	32.8	27.8
Coimbatore	...	...	...	Port Blair	6.2	28.2	24.7
Dehradun	...	32.2	23.1	Puducherry	...	...	...
Gangtok	0.7	24.5	18.0	Pune	...	30.1	21.9
Goa	0.8	31.0	24.5	Raipur	2.2	32.3	25.0
Guwahati	...	34.8	26.1	Ranchi	...	30.2	23.0
Hubballi	...	28.0	21.0	Shillong	...	25.1	17.0
Hyderabad	...	32.6	25.2	Shimla	32.3	24.1	15.2
Imphal	...	31.1	23.1	Srinagar	...	27.8	13.0
Jaipur	...	34.6	25.1	Thiruvananthapuram	...	31.4	24.8
Kochi	...	29.6	24.8	Tiruchi	...	...	...
Kohima	33.0	28.4	18.0	Vijayawada	...	33.4	26.4
Kolkata	...	33.7	27.4	Visakhapatnam	...	32.4	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	53	69	39	86	135	...
Bengaluru	02	55	103	48	84	...
Chennai	21	32	67	78	...	...
Delhi	19	25	41	84	184	...
Hyderabad	49	78	14	83	112	...
Kolkata	06	30	14	40	46	...
Lucknow	04	22	52	116	...	...
Mumbai	14	19	05	33	133	...
Pune	74	08	67	60	60	...
Visakhapatnam	15	15	54	85	111	...

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.  
NO<sub>2</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.  
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.  
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Indore hospital had blamed patients for loss of vision in 2011

Authorities let OTs reopen after initial query on ‘destroying evidence’

**SIDHARTH YADAV**  
BHOPAL  
The Indore Eye Hospital, which lost its licence earlier this month after 11 patients who underwent cataract surgery contracted infection and suffered impairment of vision, had wriggled out of a similar situation in 2011 by blaming 18 patients who had lost sight for not following doctors’ orders.  
In 2011, Madhya Pradesh’s Directorate of Health Services had initially raised doubts whether the hospital had attempted to destroy evidence after the surgeries. The hospital termed the allegations false and blamed the infections on the patients, correspondence obtained by RTI activists and seen by *The*

*Hindu* show.  
Authorities ended up granting permission to the private eye hospital to reopen its operation theatres (OTs) less than three months after 18 of its cataract surgery patients lost vision due to infection.  
On Monday, trading barbs with the BJP, the ruling Congress had hit back, saying the hospital had been let off ‘too easily’ in 2011 (when the BJP was in power in the State) and had been granted permission to resume cataract surgeries, thereby leading to the present situation.  
A letter dated March 30, 2011, reveals that the then Indore Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Sharad Pandit permitted the



**In the dark:** Shanta Bai, one of the victims of the botched eye surgery in Indore, on Sunday. • A.M.FARUQUI

hospital to reopen its three OTs, closed since early January, after an inspection team found the results of a culture swab report ‘negative’. And in September, the hospital was permitted to resume organising camps as well.  
Earlier, accusing the hospital of negligence in orga-

nising camps, the Joint Director of Health Services had written to the hospital claiming that during a tour there, “No objects were found in OTs. Eye OTs were empty. They were being white-washed. And you didn’t even convey this to us before shifting the objects from the OT.”

‘Patients responding well’

**STAFF REPORTER**  
BHOPAL  
Doctors from Sankara Nethralaya have performed corrective surgeries on four patients and referred three to their facility in Chennai, out of the 11 who suffered significant impairment of vision due to post-operative infection following cataract surgeries at a private hospital in Indore.  
“For all four, the eye is

safe,” Rajiv Raman, who performed the surgeries, told *The Hindu*. Another woman, who was administered only antibiotics, had regained vision. For one, the cornea in the affected eye had been changed and he will soon be able to see from the eye. Another was being administered antibiotics and the third would be operated upon.

Stressing that as per protocol after the first case of infection becomes known, swab samples from walls and instruments should have been sent for testing by the CMHO, the official wrote: “Yet, by shifting the objects and whitewashing the OT,

did you try to destroy the evidence?”  
Replying to the letter, Sudhir Mahashabde, Medical Director of the hospital, asserted that the patients had contracted infection as they hadn’t followed doctors’ instructions post-surgery.

“There was no infection in the eyes of patients at the point of being discharged. Each patient was given in writing precautions they had to take,” he wrote.  
Claiming that there were no rules making it mandatory to shut an OT in case of an infection or for samples to be taken from there, Dr. Mahashabde had contended that neither was it mandatory to inform the CMHO in case of modifications to the operation theatre.  
Mr. Pandit, now retired, told *The Hindu*, “The permission was granted based on three samples collected from the OTs over three months which turned negative. The Directorate was also informed about the results. Secondly, as a CMHO, I was the appropriate authority to make a decision based on the pathology report.”

# Centre to study flood-hit States

Under new Ministry rules, team to visit affected areas even before State memo

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) under the Home Ministry will soon visit 11 flood-affected States, including Kerala and Assam, to assess the damage. The Ministry has changed rules and from now on, the IMCT will visit the affected areas even before receiving a memorandum from the State concerned.

The other States that will be visited by the Central team are Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

**Criticism by Kerala**  
On Tuesday, Kerala’s Finance Minister Thomas Isaac took to Twitter to criticise the Union Home Ministry of allocating “zero” funds



**Water-logged:** People wading through a flooded area on the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi on Tuesday. • REUTERS

to Kerala.  
“Home Ministry approves ₹4,432 crores from National Disaster Response Fund for the flood-affected States. Share of Kerala, the worst affected, is zero!” Mr. Isaac said on Twitter.  
A senior Home Ministry official said the Central team would soon visit other flood-affected States, including Kerala.

In the combined rescue operations in the States affected by floods, landslides etc. during the current monsoon season, the NDRF, Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard have rescued and shifted to safer places more than 1,53,000 people.

**‘Constitute immediately’**  
“The IMCT will henceforth be constituted immediately

in the aftermath of any natural calamity of severe nature, which will visit the affected areas in the State so as to have first-hand assessment of damages caused and relief work carried out by the State administration. The IMCT will again visit the State after submission of the memorandum for detailed assessment of the damage and relief operations conducted for making final recommendations for allocation of additional funds,” the Home Ministry said in a statement.

At present, the IMCT visits the affected State only once, after the receipt of the memorandum from the State. The Centre has also approved release of over ₹4,432 crore to Odisha, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh for the damage caused by natural calamities in these States during the last financial year.

# Hindu Rashtra ideology denies equality and justice to all: N. Ram

‘Ruling party has been getting support from fringe groups’

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE**  
PUNE

Communalism as a political mobilisation strategy had made “disturbing progress” over the past several years, said N. Ram, Chairman, THG Publishing Private Ltd., on Tuesday, while remarking that the ‘Hindu Rashtra’ ideology preached by the powers that be flagrantly denied equality, fairness and justice to all citizens of the country.

Mr. Ram was delivering the first Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Memorial lecture entitled ‘Three challenges facing contemporary India’ at the city’s Tilak Smarak Mandir organised by the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nir-moolan Samiti (MANS), which the late rationalist helped to found.  
“The challenge to secular, democratic, and pluralist India has come to the fore at a time the party of the Hindu Right, led by a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh pracharak-turned-charismatic mass political-leader, has won a renewed and stronger mandate and is actively consolidating its power at the Centre,” said Mr. Ram, remarking that the ruling par-



N. Ram, Chairman, THG Publishing Private Ltd., delivering his keynote address at the Tilak Smarak Mandir. • MANDAR TANNU

ty has flanking support from a family of militant Hindutva organisations that used to be regarded as belonging to the ‘fringe’.

**‘Blow at secularism’**  
“It is no secret that this new dispensation is armed with an ideology and a socio-political programme that are at odds with what we have been accustomed to for most of India’s independent career. It is important to realise that when the RSS supreme proclaims that India is a ‘Hindu nation’ and ‘Hindutva’ is its identity, he is striking a blow at the secular concept of Indian citizen-

ship and at the Constitution itself,” he said.  
“It does this crudely through spraying anti-Muslim venom into society and, at a more sophisticated level, by advocating the value of ‘positive secularism’,” Mr. Ram said, observing that it was “fashionable” today to decry secularism as “a tired, formulaic, hack concept”.  
“Legitimising Hindutva, pushing the validity of majoritarianism and calling for an authoritarian ‘national unity’ and ‘patriotism’ on this deeply divisive basis is what pseudo-nationalism seeks to achieve for the communalists,” said Mr. Ram.

# Overdose of laddoos leads to divorce plea

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE**  
MEERUT

A resident of Uttar Pradesh’s Meerut district has sought divorce on grounds that his wife, under the influence of a *tantrik* (shaman), was giving him only ‘laddoos’ to eat.

The man approached a family court where he said that on the instructions of the *tantrik*, his wife gave him four laddoos to eat in the morning and four in the evening. He was not allowed to eat anything else.



Chhota Rajan

Mr. Shetty was shot at in Andheri by two motorcycle-borne shooters linked to Rajan in October 2012, when he was going to meet a friend. Mumbai police’s Anti-Extortion Cell (AEC), which probed the case, asserted that Rajan ordered his sharp shooters to eliminate Mr. Shetty.  
Around 9.30 p.m., when he reached a prominent jewellery showroom, Upad-

hyay opened fire at Mr. Shetty injuring him on his right arm. The accused fled from the spot after the hotelier was rushed to the nearby Oshiwara police station from where he was admitted to a hospital.

**Plot to murder**  
During the investigation, the AEC arrested Nityanand Nayak, a property dealer from Dharavi area, who indicted Selvin Daniel, a brother of Satish Kalia.

Daniel’s arrest led the AEC to unravel the plot behind the firing. The arrests of Nayak and Daniel also led the AEC team to Dilip Upadhyay and Talvinder Singh, who were arrested from Jalandhar in Punjab.  
Special Public Prosecutor Pradeep Gharat relied on call record details and examined about 50 witnesses.





## Trump calls

While India opposes third party mediation, it can expect U.S. pressure on Pakistan

The United States views Jammu and Kashmir as a nuclear flashpoint, considering the capabilities of India and Pakistan, and this is a rare point of agreement between U.S. President Donald Trump and the country’s professional strategists. He conveyed the importance of reducing tensions and maintaining peace to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. He also urged Mr. Khan to “moderate rhetoric with India”, echoing India’s sentiments. He had spoken to Mr. Khan last week too, as relations between the neighbours took a turn for the worse after India’s decision to revoke the special status of J&K on August 5. Under Mr. Modi, India has revised its long-held policy on J&K and ruled out any role for Pakistan in New Delhi’s ties with the troubled region, while reiterating its claim over Pakistan occupied territory. Pakistan’s ruling establishment has flourished by using Kashmir as a trope of Islamic nationalism, even as its society sank in radicalism and violence. With Islamabad crying itself hoarse over the sudden turnaround in India’s posture and considering the history of conflicts between the two countries, the U.S. – even under an isolationist President – could not have looked the other way.

Mr. Trump’s anxiety about India-Pakistan tensions is also linked to his desperation to disentangle the U.S. from the conflict in Afghanistan – now in its 18th year – before his reelection bid in 2020. In the jihadi world view, Kashmir and Afghanistan are two fronts of the same war, and the Pakistani state has conveniently peddled this idea for long. The U.S. is no longer swayed by Pakistan’s argument that the ‘road to peace in Afghanistan runs through Kashmir’, but it is certainly conscious of Islamabad’s proclivity to mischief, most evidently by supporting terror groups launched into Afghanistan and Kashmir. India has always resisted, rightly, any linkage between Afghanistan and Kashmir but it cannot be dismissive of the implications of the U.S.’s inevitable withdrawal from Afghanistan. The U.S. has gradually but decisively tilted in favour of India on a range of regional strategic questions in recent years, but its search for an Afghan escape route forces it to keep Islamabad in good humour. While Mr. Trump and his administration have been largely sympathetic to India’s latest move on J&K, his tweet on Monday projected parity between Mr. Modi and Mr. Khan by terming them “my two good friends.” While India opposes any third party mediation, it expects the U.S. to keep Pakistan on a tight leash. India’s position that Kashmir is strictly an internal matter can be reinforced only by holding its citizens close and reassured. New Delhi’s dealings with J&K must be becoming of the world’s largest democracy.

## Free fall

No end to the Afghan crisis is in sight as the IS emerges as the third player in the conflict

The suicide attack at a crowded wedding hall in Kabul on Saturday night that killed at least 63 people and injured more than 180 others is yet another tragic reminder of the perilous security situation in Afghanistan. The blast, claimed by the local arm of the Islamic State (IS), occurred at a time when the U.S. and the Taliban are preparing to announce a peace agreement to end the 18-year-long conflict. But if the IS attack is anything to go by, it is that peace will remain elusive to most Afghans irrespective of the agreement reached between the Taliban and the U.S. It’s now a three-way conflict in Afghanistan – the government, the Taliban insurgents and the global terrorists. The government in Kabul, backed by the U.S. and the international community, is fighting to preserve the existing system, which despite its faults, at least offers a semblance of democracy. But the government is a failure in ensuring safety and security of the people. The Taliban, which controls the mountainous hinterlands, wants to expand its reach to the urban centres. The IS, which has declared a province (Khorasan) in eastern Afghanistan’s Nangarhar, has emerged as the third player. Attacks against civilians, especially the Shia minority, is the central part of its brutal military tactics. Afghanistan’s Hazara Shias were the target of the wedding hall bombing as well. The IS, which released a video of the purported bomber, a Pakistani, said he attacked “polytheistic rejectionists”, as the group calls Shia Muslims.

This complex, mutually destructive nature of the conflict is the biggest challenge before any attempt to establish order and stability in Afghanistan. As part of a potential peace deal, the U.S. is ready to pull troops from Afghanistan in return for assurances from the Taliban that they will not allow the Afghan soil to be used by transnational terrorists such as the IS and al-Qaeda. It will be left to the Taliban and the government to have their own peace talks and settle differences. Arguably, a peace deal or at least a ceasefire between the Taliban and the Kabul government would allow both sides to re-channel their resources to fighting terrorist groups. But the Taliban’s intentions are hardly clear. What if the Taliban, which ran most of Afghanistan according to its puritanical interpretation of the Islamic law from 1996 to 2001, turns against Kabul once the Americans are out? What if the country plunges into a multi-party civil war as it did after the Soviet Union pulled out in 1989? The IS has demonstrated an ability to survive and strike in Afghanistan despite the U.S.’s heavy air campaign in the east. Ideally, the international community should have strengthened the hands of the Kabul government against all kind of terrorists, before seeking a settlement with the insurgents. They should have helped alter the balance of power in the conflict. But it does not seem likely now. And Afghanistan is in a free fall.

# Choppy waters lie ahead

Anger in Kashmir and adverse global opinion are but expected; policymakers must learn from similar world events



M.K. NARAYANAN

In a series of swift moves, New Delhi has effectively altered the character of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, setting certain new terms for engagement. Between August 5 and 7, Parliament passed several resolutions; emasculating the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K); making Article 35A a dead letter; abolishing J&K as a State of the Indian Union and replacing it with two separate Union Territories – the Union Territory of J&K and the Union Territory of Ladakh. These provisions were endorsed by both Houses of Parliament with huge majorities.

The dramatic turn of events, and the swiftness with which they were carried out, stunned the nation. Preceding this, Kashmir had come under a blanket of secrecy. The Amarnath yatra as well as other yatras and similar activities were prematurely called off. All non-J&K personnel were asked to leave the State. Communications with the outside world, including the Internet, were disrupted. An unprecedented number of paramilitary personnel were inducted into the Kashmir Valley and still remain. All combined, it gave the impression of a total lockdown of a kind and on a scale not previously attempted.

### A decline and fall

The change in status of J&K from a princely State (under the tutelage of the British from 1846 to 1947) to a Union Territory now with few legislative powers, mirrors the State’s decline and fall. No special circumstances were mentioned for removing the special status accorded to J&K, enshrined in Article 370 of the Constitution. Article 35A was a casualty of this step. The decision was merely presented as a “fait accompli”. Not explained

again was the need to take the step under such a cloak of secrecy. The Prime Minister has since characterised the decision as ‘historic’ and as providing a new beginning for J&K and Ladakh. Further steps have been initiated to complete J&K’s integration with India so as to transform Kashmir from a ‘civilisational backyard’ to a modern State.

It would be an error of judgment, however, to believe that “all is well” in J&K. The nation does confront a situation which could have many, and unintended, consequences. Many ‘-isms’ have, no doubt, collapsed during the past half century and more. Today, communism is a pale shadow of what it was in the 20th Century. Humanism is under threat. Liberal ideas face attacks from all sides. Nationalism is the dominant imperative, and comes in many shades and sizes. India had been slow to adopt nationalism as a creed but is now tilting towards majoritarian nationalism. Whether it would dilute India’s “diversity”, which had always been regarded as the country’s greatest virtue remains to be seen.

### Federal imperative

The immediate concern in many quarters, even though it is not being publicly articulated at this time, is whether other “Guarantees” enshrined in the Constitution would wilt under the juggernaut of “majoritarian nationalism”, with the ruling dispensation having an overwhelming majority in Parliament. Whatever might be the demerits of constitutional guarantees such as Article 370 (which aimed to protect J&K’s autonomous status), it cannot be ignored that it was intended to accommodate not only Kashmir’s diversity but also to meet prevailing circumstances at the time of accession. Over time, it helped India put at rest speculation, as far as the world was concerned, about the status of J&K within the Indian Union.

It is imperative to recognise that preservation of the asymmetric



character of India’s federal structure necessitates effecting several compromises. It also needs to be recognised that the manner in which India had dealt with such asymmetry in the past is what has made India and the Indian Constitution the envy of the rest of world. Every Article in the Indian Constitution has an appropriate role in sustaining India’s diverse and asymmetric federalism.

The least of our concerns in the coming days, however, may not be the “dumbing-down” of Article 370 and Article 35A. Equally inconsequential may be the sledgehammer tactics employed to swat remnants of Kashmir’s autonomy. There are far weightier issues that India may have to contend with.

For the present, criticism may be muted regarding the manner in which the changeover in Kashmir was effected. Within Kashmir itself, reeling under a veil of secrecy, it is difficult to gauge the depth of anger and the extent of animosity towards New Delhi. When the current measures are relaxed, a recrudescence of violence in the State can be expected.

### Global reactions and lessons

International opinion is unlikely – whatever gloss we may apply – to accept at face value our reasons as to why the steps taken in Kashmir were necessary. Already, voices critical of India’s actions are beginning to be heard. China made its views clear to India’s External Af-

# A top post, its promise and peril

The post of CDS can lead either to a transformation of the defence forces or it could sink with a middling mandate



ANIT MUKHERJEE

On Independence Day, in his inimitable style, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Officially, this post was first proposed by the Group of Ministers Report in 2001 but the idea for a CDS can be traced back to Lord Louis Mountbatten, the architect of India’s higher defence organisation. In many ways then, this is a culmination of a long cherished dream, and Mr. Modi deserves full credit for it. However, implementation is key, something that perhaps he knows all too well, having dealt with the aftermath of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rollout and demonetisation.

The Prime Minister therefore needs to be bold with this initiative and should understand that his military and civilian advisers, institutionally, have an interest in undermining it. So the manner in which this office is set up portends either the greatest, necessary transformation of the Indian military or a *naam-ke-vaastey* appointment with a middling mandate and a middling job.

Currently there are no further details on the proposed powers of the CDS. According to one report, an “implementation committee”

has been established comprising the Defence Secretary, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff and other unnamed officers. This itself is a mistake. The committee should ideally be headed by a political leader and/or a rank outsider, who should have no skin in the game. Indeed, the experience of defence reforms in other countries suggests that it is best to have qualified ‘outsiders’ involved in the process. Serving officials can of course assist such an individual or a team but expecting them to, if necessary, curtail their own powers is quixotic.

### Overcoming resistance

After his first term in office, Mr. Modi must have realised the aversion within the service headquarters to reform. In more than one Combined Commanders Conference, the annual gathering of senior most officers from all three services, Mr. Modi challenged them to come up with a common plan for greater integration. It is still unclear what the modalities of this proposed plan were, submitted sometime in 2018, but according to Admiral Sunil Lanba, till recently the Chief of Naval Staff and Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, they recommended creating a Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. Fortunately, Mr. Modi did not settle upon this term, which perceptually is a step below a CDS. These interactions, however, must have revealed an obvious detail – the service chiefs and their headquarters will bitterly oppose creating



an empowered CDS. India’s is perhaps the only large military wherein the service chiefs retain both operational and staff functions. This anomaly cannot continue merely because that is the tradition. If this government wants a “new India” it will have to break decisively from the past and draw up a time-bound road map to divest the chiefs of their operational command.

Perhaps one of the best approaches is to focus squarely on the powers and capacity of the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS), which will serve (or served) as the secretariat to the CDS. The IDS is the joint staff, created in 2001, and comprises around 270 officers. The services have viewed it with a mix of irritation bordering on contempt. It is usually treated as a career backwaters and perhaps the Prime Minister should examine how many recent chiefs have served in this institution. Going forward, civilians should emphasise joint staff experience as an important consideration for senior officer promotions. On another

fares Minister S. Jaishankar on August 12, implicitly rejecting his argument that a bifurcation of J&K and the voiding of Article 370 were India’s internal matters. China also did not heed Mr. Jaishankar’s caution that “the future of India-China relationship will depend on mutual sensitivity”.

Most nations across the world may adopt a similar line, with a few even pontificating that when push comes to shove, India is no different from most other Second and Third World countries, which make and break rules of their own choosing. India could, hence, once again find itself isolated, having to defend its actions in Kashmir in the international fora.

At a time like this, policymakers in India would do well to heed the lessons of history and take suitable prophylactic measures. Without drawing any parallel, one situation that immediately comes to mind is the crisis that ravaged Bosnia in the 1990s, following the break-up of Yugoslavia and the collapse of the post-1945 Communist order. Before the break-up, Muslims, Serbs and Croats lived reasonably amicably in mixed communities. As the war intensified, clashes between different communities increased. Support for, including a supply of arms to, different communities, were forthcoming from nations supporting each group. Pakistan, for instance, was one of the countries that at the time defied the existing United Nations ban on a supply of arms, and airlifted missiles to Bosnian Muslims. What followed was one of the worst carnages in history. We must ensure that nothing of this kind happens here.

### Regional concerns

We must also realise that the geopolitical situation in our region at this juncture is not entirely in our favour. The power play in Afghanistan, together with the fact that India has been excluded from the talks to deal with Afghanistan’s problems, and that Pakistan and China are playing key roles, has put India on notice. Pakistan is al-

count, one of the aspects worth looking into is the physical location of the IDS and the office of the CDS. According to some reports, an IDS headquarters is proposed to be built somewhere in Delhi Cantonment. Instead of being shunted, officers in the IDS should occupy prime offices in South Block and the office of the CDS should be located right next to that of the Defence Minister.

### Zeroing in

One of the most closely watched decisions will be on appointing the first CDS. The government need not go with the seniority rule and should instead consider a “deep selection” from current pool of flag officers. To begin with, and to assuage the fears of the smaller services, it may be wise to not let an Army officer to first tenet this post. Moreover, it is not necessary, or perhaps even desirable, for a former service chief to be appointed as the CDS. As a fulcrum for future defence transformation and armed with a possible mandate to examine inter-services prioritisation, long-term planning, officer education (including the perennially-imminent Indian National Defence University) and jointness, the CDS can emerge as the biggest “game changer”. But if the service chiefs have their way then this will be just another gloried post, without much effective powers.

Finally, an important aspect of any reorganisation should look at the inter-se relations between the military and the Ministry of Defence. This needs to focus on ca-

ready using its leverage in Afghanistan to regain greater acceptance internationally, specially with the U.S. The nexus between China and Pakistan has, if anything, become stronger.

We can, hence, anticipate a joint effort by Pakistan and China to muddy the waters as far as Kashmir is concerned. Pakistan will almost certainly intensify terror attacks and whip-up local sentiments inside Kashmir. China, which is already concerned about a “rising nationalist India”, is likely to adopt more insidious tactics, aimed at weakening India’s influence across the region. Buoyed by the fact that it possesses one of the most powerful militaries in the world and with growing acceptance of the Belt and Road Initiative, China can be expected to raise the ante on both the border and in the Indian Ocean region.

Given the complex nature of the international situation, India also needs to be on its guard on how the situation in Kashmir might encourage radicalist Islam to exploit the situation. Across both Europe and Asia, widespread concerns exist that radicalised Islamist ideas and concepts thrive in conflict situations. Experts warn of the inherent dangers in such situations, and their recipe is that apart from utmost vigilance devising more inclusive and diversified policies is important to achieve positive results. Policy makers in India would do well to heed these concerns.

One final word. The removal of Article 35A should not result in demographic “aggression” in Kashmir, with outsiders seeking to “colonise” Kashmir. This could be highly counter-productive. It could also induce fears across the entire Northeast, even though Article 371 still holds sway there. In short, authorities must avoid any kind of ‘colourable exercise of power’ in many other areas as well, including on the language issue.

M.K. Narayanan is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

capacity, expertise, decision-making powers and aligning responsibility and accountability. The relations between the civilian bureaucracy and the military are among the biggest fault-lines in the defence apparatus and remedial actions are required, on both sides, to create a professional, well-developed and qualified bureaucracy which integrates both civilian-military expertise.

With this announcement, Mr. Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have an opportunity to finish a project which Lord Mountbatten was so passionate about. But this is not just about dead Englishmen. Arun Singh, one of the most forward looking quasi-defence ministers, was, according to those who worked closely with him (Mr. Singh), was keen to establish theatre commands back in 2001. However, he was unsure if political leaders at that time would fully support such a transformation. Eventually they did not and the Indian strategic community has been complaining about reforms which “failed to deliver”. Over the next few months, this government has an opportunity to usher in a revolution in defence management – whether they realise this dream or not is up to question.

Anit Mukherjee is Assistant Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and the author of the forthcoming book, *The Absent Dialogue: Politicians, Bureaucrats and the Military in India*

### Farewell Khayyam

A long-standing link with the ‘golden era’ of Hindi film music was snapped in the death of the famous music maestro Khayyam. Though he composed music for a limited number of films, his songs are quite memorable and have a lilting appeal about them. The song ‘Sham-e-gham ki qasam’ from *Foot Path*, rendered in the velvety voice of Talat Mahmood, will linger in our ears forever.

SESHAGIRI ROW KARRY, Hyderabad

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### The govt. we deserve?

The adage that people get the government they deserve rings true in today’s India. The electorate has voted Bharatiya Janata Party to power and literally give it a mandate to lord over the people. What is happening in the name of governance, especially in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), amounts to a subversion of the very principles of democracy. Further, as the author has pointed out in the article “Democracy under siege,” (Editorial page, Aug. 20),

the judiciary has failed time and again in checking the executive’s powers.

R. PRABHU RAJ, Bengaluru

■ Any number of write-ups condemning the manner of abrogation of Article 370 will fail to appeal to the common man. Successive governments could not bring peace to the Valley and the people there were not treated on par with the people of other States. This disparity was a stumbling block for any growth. Contrary to what the author

argues, there was no disrespect meant to the Indian Constitution. The situation was extraordinary and called for an unconventional measure.

V. LAKSHMANAN, Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

### A far-fetched view

The writer is taking a far-fetched view by saying that the rest of India has never integrated itself with Kashmir (“The idea of India is failing,” Aug. 19). Appreciating the beauty of a State or visiting it during holidays by itself does not

reduce its value in people’s eyes. Rather, it is the provisions of Article 370, which do not carry the same meaning as special status given to other States like Mizoram and Nagaland, that kept J&K and its citizens aloof from the rest of India. Simply because these provisions were necessary at the time of J&K’s accession to India does not mean that they hold relevance and use even after 72 years of Independence of the country.

DAMINI MEHTA, New Delhi

### Unifying the forces

A synergy between the forces is necessary and a Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) can provide the best answer to this problem (Editorial, “Soldier Number One,” Aug. 20). At a time when India is struggling to deal with the potentially destabilising tactics of Pakistan and China, the need for a CDS is imminent. Also, the response-time gap is a major problem when either two or all three forces are needed. A CDS can bridge this gap.

VISHWIJEET SINGH, Chandigarh



# The monk who shaped India’s secularism

Vivekananda was a proponent of a multicultural nation rooted in religious tolerance and modernity



RAHUL MUKHERJI

Has Indian nationalism turned utterly exclusivist? What would one of the icons of nationalism, Swami Vivekananda, have to say about this shift? Nationalism, after all, is a battle for the myths that create a nation.

The practice of Indian secularism, despite its pitfalls, has distinguished the country from many of its neighbours. India is the nation with the third-highest number of Muslims in the world. Its ability to consolidate democracy amidst unprecedented diversity could teach a lesson or two even to advanced industrial economies that have operated along the lines of a classic monocultural nation. The country’s secular ideals have their roots in its Constitution, promulgated by its people, a majority of whom are Hindus. Would this state of affairs change because a different morality, Hindu nationalism, has surreptitiously overtaken India’s tryst with secular nationalism?

Indian secularism has always attempted, however imperfectly, to respect the credo of *sarva dharma sama bhava* (all religions lead to the same goal), which translates to an equal respect for all religions. However, the early-day Hindu nationalists were clearly at odds with the idea. This was the reason Nathuram Godse assassinated one of its strongest proponents, Mahatma Gandhi.

### Hindu nationalism today

For the likes of Godse, a corollary of the two-nation theory was that independent India was primarily a land for Hindus. More than 70 years after Independence, this notion has gained prominence as never before in India’s post-colonial history. This is evident when the Central government says it will consider all Hindus in neighbouring countries as potential Indian citizens. The most recent example of this is the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, the country’s only Muslim-majority State, into two Union Territories, with all special provisions taken away from the erstwhile State’s residents.



Swami Vivekananda believed in the philosophy of *sarva dharma sama bhava* (all religions lead to the same goal). • VIVEKANANDA ILLAM/THE HINDU

Not only were Kashmiris not consulted, they were made to suffer an information blackout. Does this kind of Hindu nationalism align with the cosmopolitan nature of India’s millennial traditions?

Another question that needs to be asked is: Is it fair to appropriate Swami Vivekananda, another follower of the *sarva dharma sama bhava* philosophy whom Prime Minister Narendra Modi keeps citing, as a Hindutva icon?

Here, it is necessary to understand what Vivekananda’s life and world view said about Indian nationalism. His Chicago lectures (1893) marked the beginning of a mission that would interpret India’s millennial tradition in order to reform it and he later spent about two years in New York, establishing the first Vedanta Society in 1894. He travelled widely across Europe and engaged Indologists such as Max Mueller and Paul Deussen. He even debated with eminent scientists such as Nicola Tesla before embarking on his reformist mission in India.

One of the key elements of his message, based on the experiments of his spiritual mentor Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, was that all religions lead to the same goal. Parama-

hansa is unique in the annals of mysticism as one whose spiritual practices reflect the belief that the ideas of personal god and that of an impersonal god as well as spiritual practices in Christianity and in Islam all lead to the same realisation.

While in Chicago, Vivekananda stressed three important and novel facets of Hindu life. First, he said that Indian tradition believed “not only in toleration” but in acceptance of “all religions as true”. Second, he stressed in no uncertain terms that Hinduism was incomplete without Buddhism, and vice versa.

Finally, at the last meeting he proclaimed: “[I]f anybody dreams [of] the exclusive survival of his own religion and the destruction of others, I pity him from the bottom of my heart, and point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will soon be written, in spite of resistance: ‘Help and not fight’; ‘Assimilation and not destruction’; and ‘Harmony and peace and not dissension’.

### Religion and rationality

Vivekananda’s interpretation of India’s past was radical and, when he returned from the West, he had with him a large number of American and European followers. These women

and men stood behind his project of establishing the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.

Vivekananda emphasised that India needed to trade Indian spirituality for the West’s material and modern culture and was firmly behind India’s scientific modernisation. He supported Jagadish Chandra Bose’s scientific projects. In fact, Vivekananda’s American disciple Sara Bull helped patent Bose’s discoveries in the U.S. He also invited Irish teacher Margaret Noble, whom he rechristened ‘Sister Nivedita’, to help uplift the condition of Indian women. When she inaugurated a girls’ school in Calcutta, Vivekananda even requested his friends to send their girls to this school.

Vivekananda also inspired Jamsetji Tata to establish the Indian Institute of Science and the Tata Iron and Steel Company. India needed a secular monastery from where scientific and technological development would uplift India’s material conditions, for which his ideals provided a source of inspiration.

### Influence on Gandhi, Nehru

Vivekananda made a remarkable impact on the makers of modern India, who later challenged the two-nation theory, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose. He used the term ‘Daridra Narayan’ to imply that ‘service to the poor is service to god’, many years before Gandhiji addressed the socially oppressed as ‘Harijan’ (children of god). The Mahatma in fact opined that his love for India grew thousand-fold after reading Vivekananda.

It is for these reasons that the latter’s birthday was declared as the National Youth Day.

Was Vivekananda then a proponent of Hindutva or of the millennial traditions that have survived many an invasion and endured to teach the world both “toleration and universal acceptance”? Should Hindu nationalism take his name but forget his fiery modern spirit that rediscovered and reformed India’s past? And shouldn’t India’s secular nationalism also acknowledge its deeply spiritual roots in the beliefs of pioneers like the reformer?

Rahul Mukherji is Professor, South Asia Institute, at the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University

# After Hamza bin Laden

The collaboration of competing anti-Indian and pro-Islamist outfits and standalone clerics is a deadly prospect



R.K. RAGHAVAN

A notorious surname can be a burden. For Hamza bin Laden, the surname was probably a curse as well as a blessing. Not many around the world had probably heard his name until news of his death was broadcast in early August by the U.S. media.

Some reports say that Hamza, 30, was killed in a military operation about two years ago. He was apparently last seen in Iran after he and a few others of his group had been flushed out of Afghanistan. There is also speculation that he sought refuge in Pakistan, like his father Osama bin Laden.

No one knows why it took so long for the U.S. to be convinced that Hamza had indeed died. In 2017, the U.S. had classified Hamza as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. This decision was possibly on account of the realisation that Hamza’s vitriolic utterances against the U.S could inflame passions in the Islamic world, inside al Qaeda and outside.

Ironically, the U.S. announced a bounty of \$1 million on his head only early this year, an indication that there was some doubt about his death until July 31. This reinforces the impression that targeted terrorists are elusive, fleet-footed and are able to hide their identities and movements for long, even from the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

### Impact on al Qaeda

Terror experts are divided on the impact of Hamza’s killing on al Qaeda. Some say he was charismatic and had great oratorical skills that won him some admirers looking for straws to clutch on to in the post-Osama era. But beyond this there wasn’t anything spectacular about Hamza to write home about. There is no account of his assuming a front-line role on any occasion – as a strategist, propagandist or fighter. In sum, he was a nondescript personality from whom a lot was expected. He disappointed his small number of followers.

Whispers went around in al Qaeda circles for a while that the mantle of leadership of the dreaded outfit was waiting to fall on Hamza. This was because Ayman al-Zawahiri, the current head, who took over from Osama bin Laden, was reportedly suffering from a potentially debilitating heart condition and had failed to provide inspiration for any major attacks. He also chose not to target

the West and its allies.

But if one looks at it objectively, Osama bin Laden himself was unable to carry out any attacks after 9/11 as he was on the run. Realising that the U.S. would somehow get him, bin Laden was desperate that the outfit he had built assiduously should not become rudderless after him. Bin Laden groomed Hamza hoping that he would continue to work with the same zeal after his time. But Hamza did not live up to his father’s expectations. He made occasional noises against the U.S., which were possibly feeble attempts to avenge his father’s killing. But nothing more.

Perhaps Hamza could not have been able to do much after his father’s death anyway. In the post-Osama era, al Qaeda began to be overshadowed by the arrival of a belligerent Islamic State (IS). With a relatively young leadership which exploited modern technology, the IS attempted to establish a Caliphate rather than focusing on winning followers by banking on a fossilised ideology, as al Qaeda did and suffered irretrievably.

### Preventing a coalescence

Where does all this leave counterterrorism policymakers? They should focus on a strategy to prevent a coalescence of al Qaeda and the IS. The two are not bitter enemies (though al Qaeda believes less in reckless attacks) as some mistakenly believe. There are no doubt differences between them, such as the territory they should concentrate on and the methods they should employ in unleashing terror. Al Qaeda’s targets are essentially the U.S. and its allies, while the IS has worked overtime in capturing geographical areas and associated assets in Syria and Iraq. The IS had huge appeal among the youth.

There was no major conflict between the two organisations which have demarcated among themselves territories from which to operate. On a handful of occasions the two have actually worked in tandem. This is why any tactic of playing one against the other may not work to destabilise either. Both are formidable and their prowess cannot be underrated. The two can individually or together work to muddy the troubled waters on our borders. Both are looking for space to expand. The recent intemperate utterances on Kashmir of Maulana Abdul Aziz, a cleric who was close to Osama bin Laden and who was the Imam of the historic Lal Masjid in Islamabad in 2007 when the Pakistan Army laid siege, are mischievous. This is why collaboration of an assortment of competing anti-Indian and pro-Islamist outfits and standalone clerics is a deadly prospect.

R.K. Raghavan is a former CBI Director. Views are personal

# Recognising fair criticism

The central focus of ‘The Lancet’ has always been on health, and the editorial on J&K is no different

R. PRASAD

The anger against the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, for publishing on August 17 a strongly worded editorial on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was initially restricted to social media. However, two days later, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) waded into the controversy with a letter admonishing Richard Horton, the editor-in-chief of the journal. “The reputed medical journal *The Lancet* has committed breach of propriety in commenting on this political issue” and the editorial amounts to “interference into an internal matter of Union of India,” the letter says. It adds that “*The Lancet* has no locus standi on the issue of Kashmir” and questioned the “credibility and the mala fide intention behind the uncalled for editorial.”



body of over 500,000 doctors, which is supposed to be reading the journal regularly, be unaware of what the journal has always stood for?

### The role of a medical journal

The editorial is not an “act of commission” by *The Lancet*, as the IMA calls it, but what the journal considers as its beholden duty to speak up for people in health distress. This may be the first time that *The Lancet* has written critically about the J&K issue, but it is naive to assume that it has never written on such matters before. In fact, it regularly denounces any action or policy of any nation or group that harms people’s health. It has commented on Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the refugee crises in the U.S. and Canada, Sudan, the Arab Spring, and several times on Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Rohingya.

In a July 2014 editorial on Gaza, *The Lancet* wrote: “The Lancet is a general medical journal that publishes research, news, and opinion about all aspects of human health and well-being. In situations of war and conflict – such as in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and elsewhere – our perspective has always been to put the interests of civilian lives ahead of the politics of military engagement... The role of the doctor is to protect, serve, and speak up for life. That, too, is the role of a medical journal.”

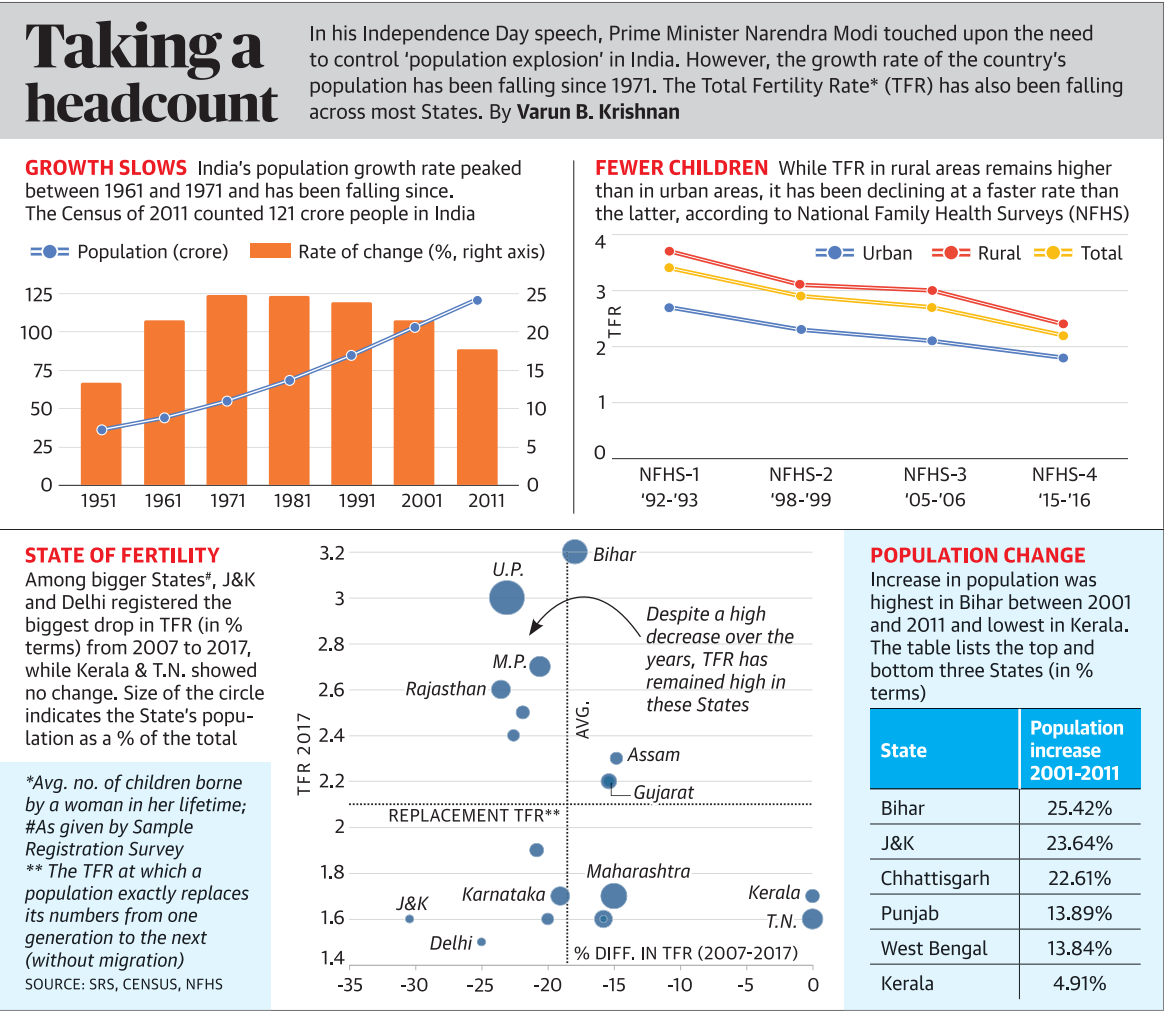
The same day that the editorial on J&K was published, *The Lancet* also carried another on mass shootings in the U.S. After putting the editorial in context and referring to a report on mass violence, the journal criticised the government saying: “The far right and the Trump administration have fomented and normalised white nationalist sentiment and entitlement with anti-immigrant rhetoric, which is amplified by conservative media and then consumed by the disenfranchised.”

Unlike in the case of the editorial on J&K, the journal has been scathing at times while commenting on other countries. But the central focus has always been on health, and the editorial on J&K is no different.

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### DATA POINT



### The Hindu.

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 21, 1969

#### Giri elected new President of India

The independent candidate, Mr. V. V. Giri, who became the non-official Congress nominee of the Prime Minister in the wake of her current power struggle with the Syndicate, was to-day [August 20] declared elected the fourth President of India, defeating his official Congress rival, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddi, in the most bitterly contested election since Independence, which might well alter the course of history in this country. Though Mr. Giri had a clear lead of 35,551 votes - having secured a total of 401,515 against the 313,548 polled by Mr. Sanjiva Reddi and 112,769 by C.D. Deshmukh - he fell short of 16,659 votes for an absolute majority in the first count under the system of proportional representation prescribed for the Presidential election. But Mr. Giri managed to meet this requirement in the second count which gave him a margin of 14,650 votes over his nearest rival, Mr. Sanjiva Reddi. The President-elect got in the second count 420,077 votes as against 405,427 secured by the official Congress candidate. Mr. S. L. Shaktcher, Returning Officer, announced at 10-33 p.m., “I declare Mr. V. V. Giri duly elected President.”

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 21, 1919.

#### The Inter-Caste Marriage Bill.

Colonel Yate intends to ask the Secretary of State for India on Monday next, whether he is aware that the introduction of the Patel Hindu Inter-Caste Marriage Bill in the Indian Legislative Council and its circulation by the Government of India through local government for opinion has caused great alarm amongst orthodox Hindus of all classes of society in India, as an interference with their most sacred religious and social usages which it has been the policy of the British Government hither to never to interfere with. In view of the considerations mentioned, Colonel Yate wants the Secretary of State to ascertain from the Government of India whether it would be desirable to take action to reassure orthodox Hindu opinion that no interference with religious usage is contemplated by the British Government. The subject was also raised by Lord Sydenham in the Joint Committee yesterday for purpose which you can well imagine. Most of his questions to Mr. Ramaswami Aiyar were intended to make as much as possible of the differences which exist amongst social and political reformers in India. Hence we had the questions about rival Home Rule Leagues and their respective relations with the National Congress.



FROM PAGE ONE

## SC concerned over misuse of web

“Why are they coming now? Eighteen hearings have already taken place [in the Madras High Court]. The proceedings are at an advanced stage. They [social media platforms] had accepted the jurisdiction of the High Courts,” he said, opposing the move to transfer the cases from the Madras High Court.

The court finally issued

notice to the Centre and the States on the plea made by social media platforms for transferring the proceedings in High Courts to the apex court. It further scheduled the next hearing to September 13.

The Bench said the “hearing before the Madras High Court may go on but no effective order be passed till further orders.”

## Chandrayaan-2 placed deftly in lunar orbit

Precise actions with the latest LOI and the earlier TLI, besides improved sensors, guidance and navigation systems and repeated tests on them, he said, should enable Vikram to soft-land on the moon at 1.45 a.m. on September 7.

As for the manoeuvre to put the spacecraft in lunar orbit, Dr. Sivan said that at 3 p.m. on Monday, Chan-

draayan-2 reached the vicinity of the moon and started picking up speed due to the moon’s gravity.

“The latest LOI manoeuvre was essential in order to reduce its speed from 2.4 km per second to 2.1 km per second. If we had not done it or done it improperly, we would have lost the spacecraft as it would have gone astray,” he said.

## Bank fraud: ED arrests Kamal Nath’s nephew

Among the accused are the company’s managing director Deepak Puri, whole-time director Nita Puri and the then executive director and their son Ratul Puri.

In its response, Moser Baer said: “The arrest by the Enforcement Directorate is unfortunate. Moser Baer had operated in accordance with all legal compliances and this case now, when Moser Baer is before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), is motivated.”

The ED is also probing Mr. Puri’s alleged role in the AgustaWestland case and a city court has issued a non-bailable warrant against him. On Monday evening, he appeared before the probe team in that case for questioning.

Mr. Puri said that he was

unwell, following which the officials handed over to him a copy of the summons related to the CBI case.

He allegedly tore up the papers, after which he was arrested and taken to a doctor.

In the bank fraud case, the company and its functionaries have been accused of cheating the Central Bank of India of ₹354.51 crore. The bank, in its complaint, said the company had availed itself of credit facilities under multiple-institution arrangement from 14 public sector banks.

As on November 30, 2011, the outstanding was ₹960.60 crore in term loans, fund-based working capital of ₹646.69 crore and ₹355.45 crore in non-fund based working capital.

## No question of debate on reservation: Athawale

Minister reacts to Bhagwat’s remark

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale said on Tuesday that reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes will continue and there will be no debate on that.

“I want to assure the Dalits of this country that there is no question of debate or rethinking on the issue of reservation. Whatever [RSS chief] Mohan Bhagwatji had said, the RSS has clarified it,” Mr. Athawale said.

He was speaking in Kolkata during a seminar on ‘Social Justice and Empowerment in India: Progress made and Way Ahead’ organised by the Merchant Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Bhagwat had on Sunday called for a “harmonious conversation” between those in favour of reservation and those against it. The Minister said that reservation is a constitutional right and no one can take it away from the Dalits. On the issue of attack on Dalits in the country, the



Ramdas Athawale.  
■ FILE PHOTO

Minister said that casteism is the main reason for the attacks and it should not be politicised. Mr. Athawale said that legislation is not sufficient for preventing attacks on Dalits and the mindset of the people needs to change.

The Minister also spoke about the steps to make India free of manual scavenging. “There are nearly 53,000 people involved in manual scavenging throughout the country. We are giving ₹40,000 [to identified manual scavengers] so that they can start something on their own... No people should be do this work in next five years,” Mr. Athawale said.

## ‘Ban DMK for secessionism’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The ruling AIADMK on Tuesday demanded that the DMK be banned for promoting “secessionist tendencies” in Tamil Nadu.

Raising the demand, D. Jayakumar, AIADMK organising secretary and Fisheries Minister, alleged that DMK spokesperson A. Saravanan had, during a tele-

vised debate, made certain remarks to the effect that Jammu and Kashmir was not an integral part of India.

“The DMK is testing the waters by letting its spokesperson make these kinds of remarks. It is a dangerous trend which should be nipped in the bud. This is why I demand that the Centre ban the DMK,” Mr. Jayakumar said.

# NRC exclusion is not the end of the road: MHA

Time limit to appeal is being increased from 60 to 120 days

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

As the August 31 deadline for the final publication of Assam’s National Register of Citizens (NRC) nears, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Tuesday that “non-inclusion of a person’s name in the NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared a foreigner.” Affected persons would be given adequate opportunity to present their case before the Foreigners Tribunals (FTs). The time limit to appeal before the FTs is also being increased from 60 to 120 days.

On Monday, the Union Home Minister reviewed the NRC process with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and senior officials.

In a statement, the MHA said, “It was decided that in order to facilitate the persons excluded from the NRC, adequate arrangements will be made by the State government to provide full opportunity to appeal against their

non-inclusion. Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final NRC, can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority, i.e. Foreigners Tribunals. Under the provisions of the Foreigners Act 1946 and the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, only Foreigners Tribunals are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner. Thus, non-inclusion of a person’s name in the NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared as a foreigner.”

**Legal aid**  
The State government would “make arrangements to provide legal aid to the needy people amongst those excluded from the NRC.” Adequate number of such tribunals were being established at convenient locations, it said.

“As it may not be possible for all those excluded from the final NRC to file the appeal within the prescribed



**Paper trail:** NRC officials verifying documents in Morigaon district of Assam. ■RITU RAJ KONWAR

time, the MHA will amend the rules to increase the present time limit of filing of appeals in FTs from 60 days to 120 days regarding exclusion from final NRC. The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003 are also being amended accordingly,” the statement stated.

In order to maintain law and order, Central security forces were being provided as per an assessment of the State government, it said.

The register, first pu-

blished in Assam in 1951, is being updated as per the directions of the Supreme Court. It is a list to segregate Indian citizens living in Assam from those who had illegally entered the State from Bangladesh after March 25, 1971. The Supreme Court has, in the past fortnight, twice rejected the State’s and the Home Ministry’s plea for reverification. Around 41 lakh people have been excluded from the draft lists published in July 2018 and June this year.

## 221 new members for Foreigners’ Tribunals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

A panel of 221 members has been selected for the existing and upcoming Foreigners’ Tribunals (FTs) in Assam. Another 50 applicants have been put on the wait list.

In a notification on Monday, the Gauhati High Court said the panel comprised retired judicial officers, advocates and civil servants, who were called for interviews

from July 16 to August 11. It recommended the candidates, selected in order of merit.

The list had been prepared and published less than a fortnight before the completion of the final NRC on August 31.

Each FT is headed by a judge-like member appointed under the FT Act, 1941, and FT Order, 1984, as per the guidelines issued by the government.

## Marriage off over NRC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GUWAHATI

A family at Silchar in Assam has called off the wedding of their daughter when the groom failed to provide citizenship credentials.

Dilwar Hussain Laskar of Nayagram near Silchar was in love with a local woman

and the two families had agreed to their marriage. But trouble arose when the woman’s family wanted to know on August 15 whether his name was in the citizens register. But Mr. Laskar’s name was not in the draft NRC. The woman’s family called off the wedding.

### Rajiv remembered



**Floral tribute:** Sonia Gandhi paying homage at Veer Bhoomi in New Delhi on Tuesday. Top leaders, including former President Pranab Mukherjee and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, paid tributes to Rajiv Gandhi on his 75th birth anniversary. ■SANDEEP SAXENA

## Social justice is at risk, says Priyanka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday linked RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat’s comments on reservation to the Narendra Modi government’s legislative agenda and alleged that the ‘real target’ was social justice.

“The confidence of the RSS is high and intentions are dangerous. At a time when the BJP government is throttling pro-people laws, the RSS has also raised the issue of debate on reservation,” Ms. Vadra tweeted. “Debate is just an excuse, the real target of the RSS-BJP is social justice. Will you allow this to happen?” she wrote on Twitter.

On Sunday, Mr. Bhagwat had said there should be a conversation in a harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of reservation and those against it.

# It’s a classic case of money laundering, says Delhi HC

Custodial interrogation of Chidambaram required: judge  
Politics of vendetta: Cong.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

In a setback to senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed his anticipatory bail application in the INX Media case.

“Facts of the case *prima facie* reveal that petitioner [Mr. Chidambaram] is the kingpin, that is, the key conspirator in this case,” Justice Sunil Gaur remarked, noting that custodial interrogation of the former Finance Minister was required for effective investigation.

Terming it a “classic case of money laundering”, Justice Gaur said the gravity of the offence and Mr. Chidambaram’s evasive responses weighed against him.

He also declined Mr. Chidambaram’s plea for interim protection from arrest so that he could approach the

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Backing former Union Minister P. Chidambaram who is facing arrest in the INX Media case, the Congress on Tuesday said the action of the CBI and the ED is “selective targeting and politics of vendetta.” “We fail to understand what is going to happen in the night. Heavens have not opened up. Mr. Chidambaram is an eminent citizen,” said Anand Sharma, Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha, questioning the urgency.

Supreme Court. Within hours of the High Court verdict, Mr. Chidambaram’s legal team, led by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, rushed to the Supreme Court for an urgent hearing of the appeal.

Mr. Sibal was joined by senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and Salman Khurshid in the Supreme Court. However, their efforts for an immediate hearing did not bear

fruit. They were advised by the Supreme Court Registry to make an oral mention in court on Wednesday.

Since Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S.A. Bobde are both part of the Ayodhya Constitution Bench, Mr. Chidambaram’s plea is likely to be mentioned before Justice N.V. Ramana. Mr. Sibal said they were yet to get a copy of the High Court decision.

## No scope for quota debate, says Paswan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister and Lok Janshakti Party leader Ram Vilas Paswan on Tuesday said there was no scope for a debate on reservation as it was a constitutional right.

He was reacting to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat’s call for a sober conversation on reservation. “I am not aware of exactly what Bhagwatji said. But as far as reservation is concerned the Narendra Modi government is committed to it... It will not be tampered with,” Mr. Paswan said.

# Shah wants proper assessment of leaders wishing to join BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

BJP president Amit Shah urged senior leaders at a meeting on Tuesday to do a proper evaluation of leaders of Opposition parties wanting to join the BJP.

Leaders of various parties have been flocking to the BJP recently. In the Rajya Sabha alone, four members of the Telugu Desam Party and one each of the Congress and the Samajwadi Party have joined the BJP.

BJP general secretary Anil Jain, who is the organisational in charge for Haryana, said the leaders discussed the strategy for the Assembly elections.



Amit Shah

“We have been receiving many applications for party membership; therefore, he [Mr. Amit Shah] has recommended that every person who wants to join the BJP be evaluated properly,” a top leader said.

Those who attended the

meeting included Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, who is the election in-charge for Delhi, which will go to the polls in February 2020, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who is in charge of Haryana, which will go to the polls at year-end, general secretary Bhubender Yadav, who is in charge of Maharashtra, and vice-president Om Mathur, who is looking after Jharkhand. Both Maharashtra and Jharkhand will go to the polls at year-end.

BJP working president J.P. Nadda and general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh were also part of the deliberations.

## India assures Dhaka all help for development

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar who is on his first visit to Bangladesh after taking charge in May announced at a press meet in Dhaka on Tuesday that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to visit India in autumn.

Stating that Delhi will extend “all possible support” to the development agenda of Bangladesh, Mr. Jaishankar added that the India-Bangladesh relationship is a “model” of cooperation within the Neighbourhood First policy of the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the press with Mr. Jaishankar, his Bangladeshi counterpart, A.K. Abdul Momen said the bilateral talks had satisfied the Bangladesh team. Both sides had also discussed the repatriation of the Rohingya from refugee camps in Chittagong to Myanmar.

“We agreed that the safe, speedy and sustainable return of displaced persons is in the national interest of all the three countries. And we reaffirm our readiness to provide more assistance to the displaced in Bangladesh and to improve socio-economic conditions in Rakhine State,” said the External Affairs Minister.



IN BRIEF



Modi takes up London protests with U.K. PM

**NEW DELHI**  
In a telephone conversation with U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday took up the anti-India protest outside the Indian mission in London on August 15. "He referred to the violence and vandalism perpetrated by a large mob against the High Commission of India in London on the Independence Day," the MEA said.

Jawan killed in Pak. firing along LoC in Poonch

**NEW DELHI**  
An Army jawan was killed in fresh ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control on Tuesday while Army sources rejected claims by Pakistan that six Indian soldiers were killed in the firing. "Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation along Mendhar and Krishna Ghati Sectors in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir," the Army said. The deceased was identified as Naik Ravi Ranjan Kumar Singh, 36, from Gope Bigha village from Rohtas district in Bihar.

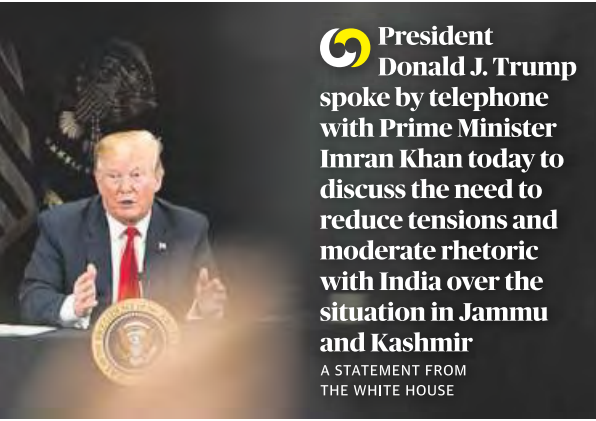
A cut in fee for acquiring electronic visa proposed

**NEW DELHI**  
With the aim of attracting more foreign travellers to the country, it has been proposed to reduce the e-visa fee while also offering the option of a short-term as well as long-term tourist e-visa. The Tourism Ministry has proposed to introduce a short duration e-visa for tourists with one month validity for \$25. However, this will be applicable during peak tourism season between July and March. To attract more tourists in the lean period between April to June, the visa fee has been proposed at \$10.

# Trump calls Imran on anti-India rhetoric

U.S. President tells Pakistan Premier to tone down comments on the situation in Kashmir

**SRIRAM LAKSHMAN**  
WASHINGTON DC  
U.S. President Donald Trump spoke with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday and asked him to reduce tensions and dial down the rhetoric with India on the Kashmir issue. "President Donald J. Trump spoke by telephone with Prime Minister Imran Khan today to discuss the need to reduce tensions and moderate rhetoric with India over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir," a statement from the White House read. In a series of tweets over the weekend, Mr. Khan had called the Narendra Modi go-



vernment "fascist, racist, Hindu Supremacist" and a threat to Pakistan and minorities in India. "The President reaffirmed

the need to avoid escalation of the situation, and urged restraint on both sides. The two leaders also agreed to work together to strengthen

United States-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation," the White House said.

**After call to Modi**  
The call with Mr. Khan, the second in a span of four days, came within hours of a call between Mr. Trump and Prime Minister Modi. In addition to discussing the strategic partnership and trade relationship between India and the U.S., Mr. Modi had told Mr. Trump that "extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence" was not conducive to peace in the region, as per an External Affairs Ministry statement released on Monday.

On Friday Mr. Khan had spoken to Mr. Trump before a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) closed consultation on the situation in Kashmir following India's abrogation of Article 370 (special status for Kashmir) on August 5. "Spoke to my two good friends, Prime Minister Modi of India, and Prime Minister Khan of Pakistan, regarding Trade, Strategic Partnerships and, most importantly, for India and Pakistan to work towards reducing tensions in Kashmir. A tough situation, but good conversations!" Mr. Trump tweeted on Monday evening.

## U.S. flags detentions in Kashmir

J&K is an internal matter but has external implications, says American official

**SRIRAM LAKSHMAN**  
WASHINGTON DC  
The U.S. believes that the dilution of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir by India is an internal matter for the country but has external ramifications. This was conveyed to a group of reporters here by a senior State Department official, who did not want to be named. "We recognize that it's an internal matter, but it obviously has implications outside of India's borders. And so we have long called for direct conversations between India and Pakistan to resolve what have been the decades of tensions generated by that issue," the official said. The U.S. view on the situation in Kashmir has defined its policy towards India and Pakistan. For India, a focus on the human rights situation in Kashmir and a quick return to normalcy and for Pakistan, a continued emphasis on undoing its sup-



**Lake placid:** A vendor carrying vegetables on his boat on the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

port for terror. "And so I think when you look at our approach to Kashmir we focused in the near term on the human rights situation, encouraging India to move quickly to release detainees to restore basic freedoms, to implement what the Prime Minister laid out in his own address of a return to political normalcy for Jammu and Kashmir, whether first as a Union Territory but then as a State and the restoration of

political dialogue. So we look to the India government to undertake those steps," the official said. **Concern over curbs** "We continue to be very concerned by reports of detentions and the continued restrictions on the residents of the region. We urge respect for individual rights, compliance with legal procedures and an inclusive dialogue with those affected," the official said on changes

made by India in Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, when Article 370 was abrogated and the State bifurcated into two Union Territories. "For Pakistan, Kashmir has always been an important issue... it's been an emotional issue," the official said, adding that it was an important time for Pakistan to demonstrate, for its own reasons and in accordance with its own national plan, that there was no benefit to allowing proxy groups [terrorist outfits] to operate from its soil. "It's [supporting terror] to the detriment of Pakistan's reputation, to the detriment of Pakistan's ability to attract the investment that it needs to grow its economy. "It's never been a successful strategy in achieving its goals for regional stability and peace and welfare of the Kashmir people," the official said.

### Azad now sent back from Jammu

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT\***  
NEW DELHI  
Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, was on Monday not allowed to attend a meeting with party workers in Jammu and sent back to Delhi from the Jammu airport for a second time. Congress functionaries said that after Mr. Azad landed at the Jammu airport, police officers told him that he would not be allowed to go out. Party leaders claimed that the LoP was in the city to take part in a function to commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi but the local administration didn't allow it. On August 8, Mr. Azad was detained and sent back from the Srinagar airport, after the Centre ended special status for Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into UTs.

## Kashmir an internal issue, Rajnath tells U.S.

Cross-border terrorism discussed

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
In a telephonic conversation with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of Defence, Mark T. Esper appreciated India's position that recent developments in Jammu and Kashmir are an "internal matter of India," Defence Ministry said. "The Minister raised the issue of cross-border terrorism affecting India and appreciated U.S. support for India's efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region. He said that issues relating to Article 370 are an internal matter of India which are aimed at improving growth and economic development, democracy and prosperity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Defence Ministry said in a statement.



Rajnath Singh

**First conversation**  
This is the first telephonic conversation between Mr. Singh and his U.S. counterpart since both took charge. The statement said Mr. Esper hoped that any issue

between India and Pakistan will be resolved bilaterally," the Ministry stated. Both the Ministers also exchanged views on military-to-military cooperation, defence policy, research and development cooperation, defence trade, technology and industrial cooperation, the Ministry said. They "expressed satisfaction on the first tri-service joint exercise planned for later this year and steps taken to operationalise" the foundational agreements signed recently. Both the Ministers are scheduled to meet at the annual 2+2 dialogue later this year in Washington.

## Defence test facilities to be opened to private sector

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
Addressing a long-pending demand of private industries to provide a level playing field in defence manufacturing, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday announced that the test facilities of the government and the Services would soon be opened for the sector. "We have approved a proposal to provide the test facilities of the government to

the private sector after incorporating the comments of the stakeholders participating in indigenous manufacturing," Mr. Singh said at a seminar on indigenisation and modernisation of the IAF, jointly organised by the Air Force and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers. A formal order to remove the bottlenecks in using the test facilities by private entities would be issued, he said.

## Sporadic protests continue in J&K

### Centre plans outreach through public darbars

**PEERZADA ASHIQ**  
SRINAGAR  
Sporadic stone-pelting continued in parts of Kashmir Valley for the 16th consecutive day on Tuesday, as the J&K government plans a major outreach to bring normalcy by organising public darbars. Officials said violent protests broke out in Srinagar's Dangerpora and Khrew and adjoining Ganderbal district. There were no reports of casualties.



**First impressions:** A Kashmiri family walking past a blockade in Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ REUTERS

Locals blocked major roads in south Kashmir's Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam districts, where very thin traffic was witnessed on the roads. The authorities said barri-

cades around the Ghanta Ghar in Lal Chowk area, the main commercial hub, was also lifted on Tuesday. Concertina and razor wires were removed from the roads in the area to allow movement

of people. A large part of Srinagar continued to face security restrictions, especially areas in the old city. However, private vehicles were seen plying in commercial hub Lal Chowk. J&K government spokesman Rohit Kansal said 12 out of 22 districts were functioning normally in J&K, which saw a lockdown immediately after Article 370 was abrogated on August 5. "Of 197 police stations across J&K, 136 stations have no daytime restrictions," said Mr. Kansal. He said out of 93,000 landlines, 73,000 have started functioning and the rest would operate soon.

## Three NIA officers transferred on extortion charge

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has transferred three officials after it received a complaint of misconduct against them, a spokesperson of the agency said. The three officials, including one of the rank of Superintendent of Police, have been accused of demanding ₹2 crore from a Delhi-based businessman in the Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) terror funding case, involving Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed.

"A complaint of misconduct was received by the NIA. An inquiry into the allegations is being conducted by an officer of the rank of DIG. In the meantime, the three officials have been transferred to ensure a fair probe," the spokesperson said.

### Conspiracy angle

According to the NIA, Hafiz Saeed and Shahid Mahmood, deputy chief of the FIF, hatched a conspiracy in 2012 to recruit sympathisers and create a base in Delhi and Haryana under the pretext of religious work. "Shahid Mahmood tasked his associate Mohammad Kamran, a Pakistani national based in Dubai, with re-routing funds from Pakistan to Dubai and further to India through hawala channels," the NIA said. The businessman came under the scanner when the three officials were conducting a probe into the hawala transactions. The NIA has filed a chargesheet in the case that was registered last year.



# Italian PM resigns, denounces Salvini for sinking government

Giuseppe Conte says his Interior Minister is harming nation for political gain

**REUTERS**  
ROME

Italy's Prime Minister announced his resignation on Tuesday as he made a blistering attack on his own Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini, accusing him of sinking the ruling coalition and endangering the economy for personal and political gain.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, addressing Parliament after it was recalled from its summer recess to decide the future of the 14-month-old government, accused League party chief Mr. Salvini of seeking to cash in on his rising popularity.

**Serious risks**

“(Salvini) has shown that he is following his own interests and those of his party,” Mr. Conte told a packed Senate, a stony-faced Mr. Salvini sitting by his side. “His decisions pose serious risks for this country.”

He described the actions



**Political crisis:** Giuseppe Conte at the Senate in Rome. ■ AFP

of Mr. Salvini, who declared the coalition unworkable 12 days ago and called for snap elections, as recklessness “liable to tip the country into a spiral of political uncertainty and financial instability”.

Mr. Conte, who belongs to neither of the coalition's two parties, said he would hand in his resignation later in the day, allowing the head of State to start consultations with parties to see if a new coalition can be formed.

Failing that, President Sergio Mattarella would have to dissolve Parliament, three and a half years ahead of schedule, a move that could trigger elections as early as the autumn.

Financial markets rallied on Mr. Conte's resignation, seemingly hopeful that snap polls could be avoided amid reports the ruling 5-Star Movement might seek an alliance with the centre-left opposition Democratic Party.

Mr. Salvini at times shook his head, rolled his eyes or nodded to League senators as the Prime Minister accused him of being “irresponsible”, “reckless”, “alarming” and “disrespectful”.

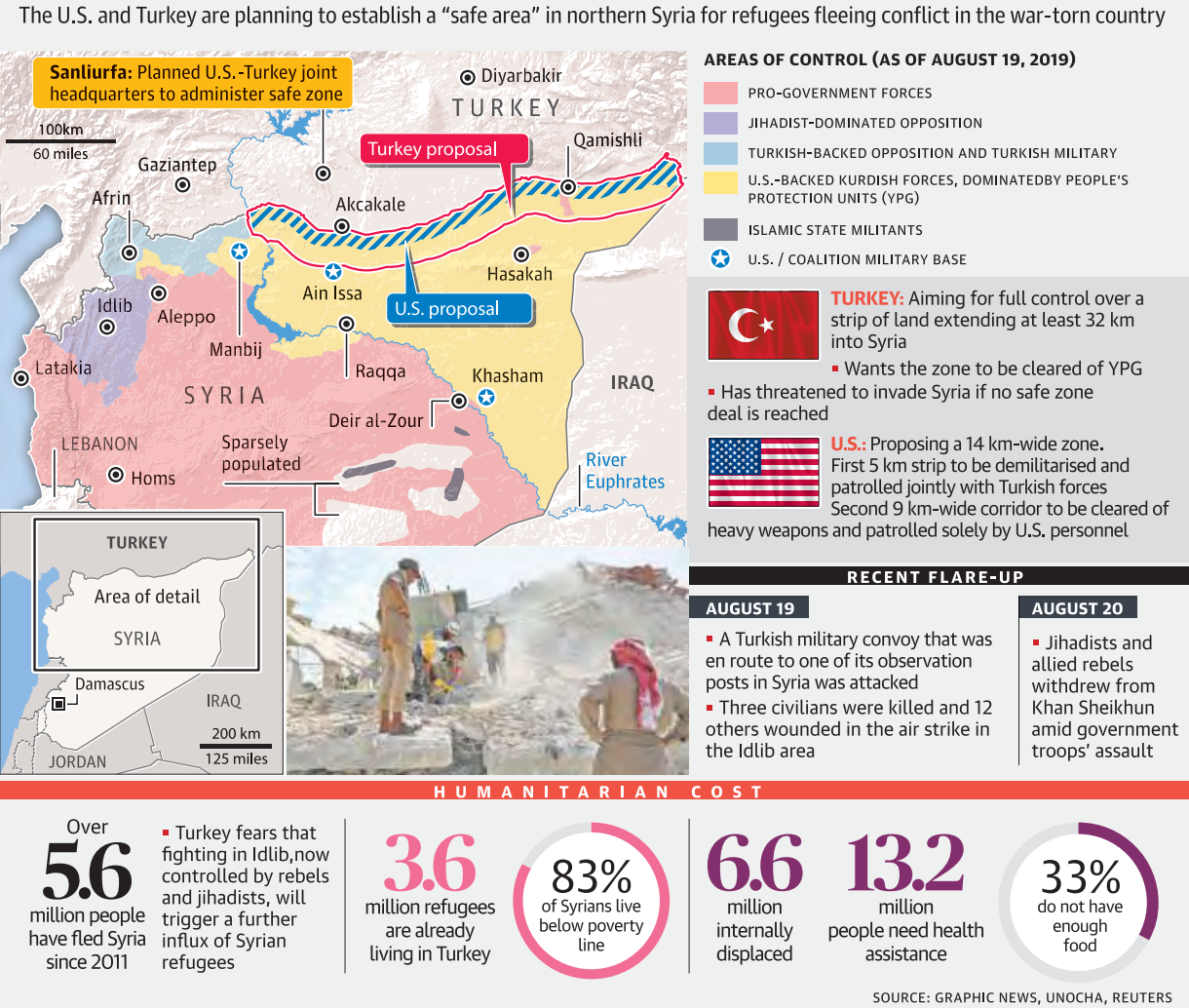
**Full powers**

Mr. Conte said he was worried by Mr. Salvini's threat to call people into the country's squares if his drive for elections were thwarted, as well as his demand for “full powers”.

“We do not need men who have ‘full powers’, but people who have institutional culture and a sense of responsibility,” he said in an hour-long speech in which he also denounced Mr. Salvini's habit of brandishing the cross at his political rallies.

Mr. Salvini rejected Mr. Conte's comments, saying other parties were afraid of going to elections and losing their influence.

## A 'safe zone' on the Syria-Turkey border?



## U.S. mulls steps to boost economy

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
WASHINGTON

The White House is considering cutting taxes or reversing tariffs to head off a recession, U.S. media reported on Monday, despite President Donald Trump's insistence the economy was in rude health.

Senior White House officials are mulling several moves to stimulate the economy, including temporarily cutting the payroll tax to increase workers' monthly take-home pay, *The Washington Post* reported.

Also under consideration

is reversing new tariffs the Trump administration imposed on Chinese goods, according to *The New York Times*.

The discussion is still in the early stages, and officials have not brought up the idea with Mr. Trump, who would have to seek approval from Congress, the newspapers said.

The White House disputed the reports in a statement to the *Post*, saying “cutting payroll taxes is not something under consideration at this time.”

Mr. Trump on Sunday

pushed back against talk of a looming recession after a raft of U.S. data reports last week gave a mixed outlook for the economy.

“I'm prepared for everything. I don't think we're having a recession. We're doing tremendously well,” Mr. Trump told reporters.

“And most economists actually say that we're not going to have a recession,” he added.

Earlier on Monday, a survey was released showing that a majority of economists expect a U.S. recession in the next two years.

## IS is regaining strength in Iraq and Syria

Group is carrying out guerilla attacks, retooling financial networks just five months after it was ousted

**ERIC SCHMITT**  
**ALISSA J. RUBIN**  
WASHINGTON

Five months after U.S.-backed forces ousted the Islamic State from its last shard of territory in Syria, the terrorist group is gathering new strength, conducting guerilla attacks across Iraq and Syria, retooling its financial networks and targeting new recruits at an allied-run tent camp, U.S. and Iraqi military and intelligence officers said.

Though President Donald

Trump hailed a total defeat of the Islamic State this year, defence officials in the region see things differently, acknowledging that what remains of the terrorist group is here to stay.

A recent report warned that a drawdown this year from 2,000 U.S. forces in Syria to less than half that, ordered by Mr. Trump, has meant the U.S. military has had to cut back on its support for Syrian partner forces fighting the Islamic State.

Although there is little concern that the IS will reclaim its former physical territory, a caliphate that was once the size of Britain and controlled the lives of up to 12 million people, the terror group has still mobilised as many as 18,000 remaining fighters in Iraq and Syria.

**Huge war chest**

These sleeper cells and strike teams have carried out sniper attacks, ambushes, kidnappings and assassina-

tions against security forces and community leaders.

The IS can still tap a large war chest of as much as \$400 million, which either has been hidden in Iraq and Syria or smuggled into neighbouring countries for safekeeping. It is also believed to have invested in businesses, including fish farming, car dealing and cannabis growing. And the group uses extortion to finance clandestine operations. Farmers in northern Iraq who refuse to

pay have had their crops burned to the ground.

During the past several months, IS has made inroads into a sprawling tent camp in northeast Syria, and there is no ready plan to deal with the 70,000 people there, including thousands of family members of IS fighters. U.S. intelligence officials say the Al Hol camp, run by Syrian Kurdish allies, is evolving into a hotbed of IS ideology and a breeding ground for future terrorists. NY TIMES

### ELSEWHERE



**Criticism over army chief unwarranted: Sri Lanka**

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Tuesday brushed aside as “unwarranted and unacceptable” international criticism of its decision to name Shavendra Silva, 55, a war veteran accused of human rights violations, as its army chief. REUTERS

**Brazil bus hijacker, armed with toy gun, shot dead**

RIO DE JANEIRO

A hijacker armed with what turned out to be a toy gun was shot dead by police in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday after he held a busload of passengers hostage for several hours on a bridge in peak-hour traffic. AFP

## ‘China backing discord campaign in Hong Kong’

Twitter and Facebook suspend accounts linked to campaign that targeted pro-democracy movement

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
HONG KONG

Twitter and Facebook have accused the Chinese government of backing a social media campaign to discredit Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement and sow political discord in the city.

The American tech giants announced on Monday they had suspended nearly 1,000 active accounts linked to the campaign. Twitter said it had shut down about 2,00,000 more before they could inflict any damage.

“These accounts were deliberately and specifically attempting to sow political discord in Hong Kong, including undermining the legitimacy and political positions of the protest move-



**Writing on the wall:** Students looking at a wall decorated with sticky notes supporting the Hong Kong protests. ■ REUTERS

ment on the ground,” Twitter said, referring to the accounts it shut down.

**Smear posts**

Facebook said some of the posts from accounts it banned compared the protesters

with Islamic State militants, branded them “cockroaches” and alleged that they planned to kill people using slingshots.

Hong Kong is in the grip of an unprecedented political crisis that has seen millions

of people take to the streets demanding greater freedoms.

China's communist rulers have warned they may be prepared to deploy force to quell the nearly three months of unrest, and likened violent protesters to “terrorists”.

**Reliable evidence**

The Chinese government is seeking to sway public opinion about Hong Kong, according to Twitter and Facebook.

“We have reliable evidence to support that this is a coordinated State-backed operation,” Twitter said.

Twitter and Facebook are banned in China, part of the government's so-called

“Great Firewall” of censorship. Because of the bans, many of the fake accounts were accessed using “virtual private networks” that give a deceptive picture of the user's location, Twitter said.

“However, some accounts accessed Twitter from specific unblocked IP addresses originating in mainland China,” it said.

Facebook said it had acted on a tip-off from Twitter, removing seven pages, three groups and five Facebook accounts that had about 15,500 followers.

Asked in Beijing about the closure of the accounts, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said: “I am not aware of the specific situation.”

## Malaysia bans Zakir Naik from public activities

He apologises for his racist remarks

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
KUALA LUMPUR

Zakir Naik on Tuesday apologised to Malaysians for making racist comments, after the radical televangelist was grilled for 10 hours by police. He has been banned from any public activities in the multi-ethnic country.

The official Bernama news agency reported that Naik, wanted by Indian authorities since 2016 for alleged money laundering and inciting extremism through hate speeches, issued an apology for the hurt caused by his controversial remarks against Malaysian Hindus and Chinese during a talk on August 8.

Malaysian Prime Minister

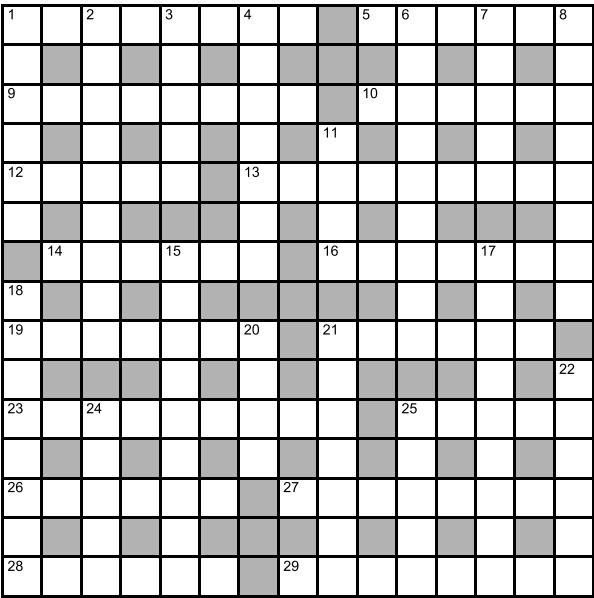


**Zakir Naik**

Mahathir Bin Mohamad Mahathir on Sunday said it was “quite clear” that Naik wanted to participate in racial politics.

“He is stirring up racial feelings. The police will have to investigate whether it is causing tension; obviously, it is,” he said.

### THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12710



■ **ACROSS**

1 Liberal parting financial return for sound recording (8)

5 Sharp male supplanted Tesla with new and keen insight (6)

9 One that runs musical show on a hill (8)

10 Curtailed prank to return knitted fabric (6)

12 Nearly produce electromotive force with salt solution (5)

13 Clever bishop's tirade about hostile institute (9)

14 Ninja guards withheld animal (6)

16 Instrument to smuggle ecstasy with ocean herb (7)

19 Electronic design is delicate (7)

21 Hundred and two engineers getting away to Java, maybe? (6)

23 Kit a valet misplaced being chatty (9)

25 Departed consuming first tropical refreshment (5)

26 Screen document covering temperature resistance (6)

27 Buy large net, building equipment primarily to get chemical substance (8)

28 European breaking box to build (6)

29 Perhaps a shot of energy thus protecting force? (8)

■ **DOWN**

1 Nationalist leaving ring with black oriental bird (6)

2 US native with ordinary beverage (9)

3 Idle for the most part, entering engineering degree, show great emotion (5)

(set by Lightning)

4 Caught at fight beside public house with iron rod (7)

6 Essentially searching for a river eel distributed in underwater ecosystem (5,4)

7 Drink tea following medical officer (5)

8 Musical symbols a tenor included in principle (8)

11 Tax he removed with old statesman (4)

15 Capable of joining with one, set off via tunnel (9)

17 Well-organised, passed net with proficiency (9)

18 Hit provided one with century, expressing supreme happiness (8)

20 Leave former lover with appeal (4)

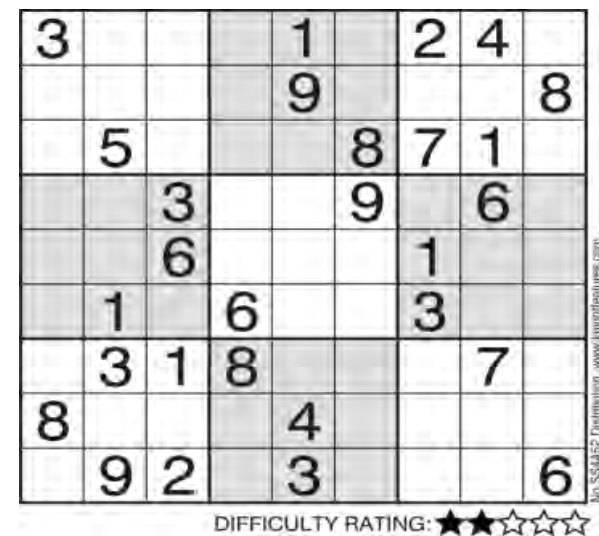
21 Attache questioned smuggling bills for exchanging money (7)

22 Engineering other changes for this purpose (6)

24 Not doing well in the French city (5)

25 Covering segment of play erratically (5)

### SUDOKU



**Solution to puzzle 12709**

G	D	F	R	B	B	M		
D	O	Z	E	O	I	L	E	R
O	A	O	O	O	R	I		
E	D	I	T	E	D	E	C	K
D	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	O
R	O							
D	A	G	W	O	O	D	T	T
W	E	D	D	E	O	D	E	L
A	E	R	O	N	A	U	T	O
R	W	I	S	A	W	R		
K	I	S	S	E	S	D	N	

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

8	3	7	9	5	6	2	4	1
9	5	4	1	2	3	8	6	7
6	2	1	4	7	8	5	9	3
2	7	9	5	3	1	4	8	6
3	6	5	2	8	4	1	7	9
4	1	8	7	6	9	3	2	5
5	8	2	3	9	7	6	1	4
1	9	6	8	4	5	7	3	2
7	4	3	6	1	2	9	5	8

### FAITH

## Endorsing values

In Gokula, where Krishna grows up, the atmosphere has been idyllic and playful; but in Mathura as a Kshatriya, He and Balarama are expected to be formally educated and the Bhagavata Purana narrates the Gurukula term of the brothers under sage Sandipani. It is held that the boys spend sixty four days in the ashram when they quickly master all the sixty four arts and branches of learning. The Lord is a ‘Sarvajna,’ says Narayana Bhattatiri to emphasise that He is the essence of omniscience and the source of all knowledge and that perhaps formal learning may be superfluous for the Lord. But this episode only highlights the importance of learning under a guru, pointed out Sri Dushyanth Sridhar in a discourse. It reinforces the efficacy of the tradition where knowledge is handed down from master to disciple since days of yore.

After completion of studies, Krishna and Balarama, as grateful disciples, wish to show their gratitude to the Guru for his instruction. This is the Guru Dakshina that a disciple is expected to offer to the master and it has to be done in the bhava of service. The sage asks for the restoration of his son who had disappeared in the waters of Prabhasa Tirtha. The guru's wish, an impossible task for any ordinary disciple, could be achieved by none other than the Lord. With great determination, Krishna and Balarama go to the ocean. The ocean king pays obeisance to them and informs them that the boy has been taken away by a demon named Panchajanya. Krishna kills the demon, but the boy is not with him. Krishna then enters the kingdom of Yama and finds the boy there. Yama is happy to welcome Krishna and the Lord brings the boy back to the hermitage of Sandipani. He turns the demon into a conch named Panchajanya.



# Is your learning and development strategy tested?

Two HR professionals on why internal training programmes should have a built-in mechanism to assess their effectiveness

LIFFY THOMAS

## ‘A training programme is just the beginning, and not the end’

Training programmes should be outcome-driven. So, a mechanism to assess the impact of a training programme should be built into it. Jacob Jesuroon, head - People Function, Access Healthcare, points out that the assessment should be taken step-by-step, and he illustrates the idea with one of the training systems followed at his company. Step one: The immediate response to a training programme. When a training programme has been completed, feedback is sought from the participating employees about the trainer, training content and training environment. Step two: The effectiveness of a training programme is gauged from how much it has improved workaday behaviour. “So, after the training is done, we have 30 days of on-the job coaching, which is es-

Line managers have to ensure their team members are upskilled from time to time and are growing internally

entially about observing the extent of behaviour and capability improvement of employees. Wherever necessary, the trainer works with the participants to ensure that lessons taught during the training are reiterated,” says Jesuroon. If the trainer had identified any specific need for the employee, 45 days of

personalised coaching is provided to them. Following this, they are issued a certificate. Jesuroon says, “It takes time to exhibit competitiveness, so we measure the overall effectiveness of a training initiative at the 120th day. We are happy seeing any improvement above 20% and a continuous learning attitude,” says Jesuroon. Out-come metrics of an effective supervisor training programme are: managing their team, providing for a productive work environment, empowering their team, and providing employees with the right career opportunities in the organisation. Another indicator of effective supervisor programme is the happiness quotient of the team members, measured every day through an internally developed app called “Happiness Meter.” Jesuroon says that it is the job of line managers to support the career goals of employees. “Line managers have to ensure their team members are up-

skilled from time to time and are growing internally,” says Jesuroon, adding that they insist that at least 70% of the members in a team are promoted once in two years.

## Bridging the gap between learning and performance

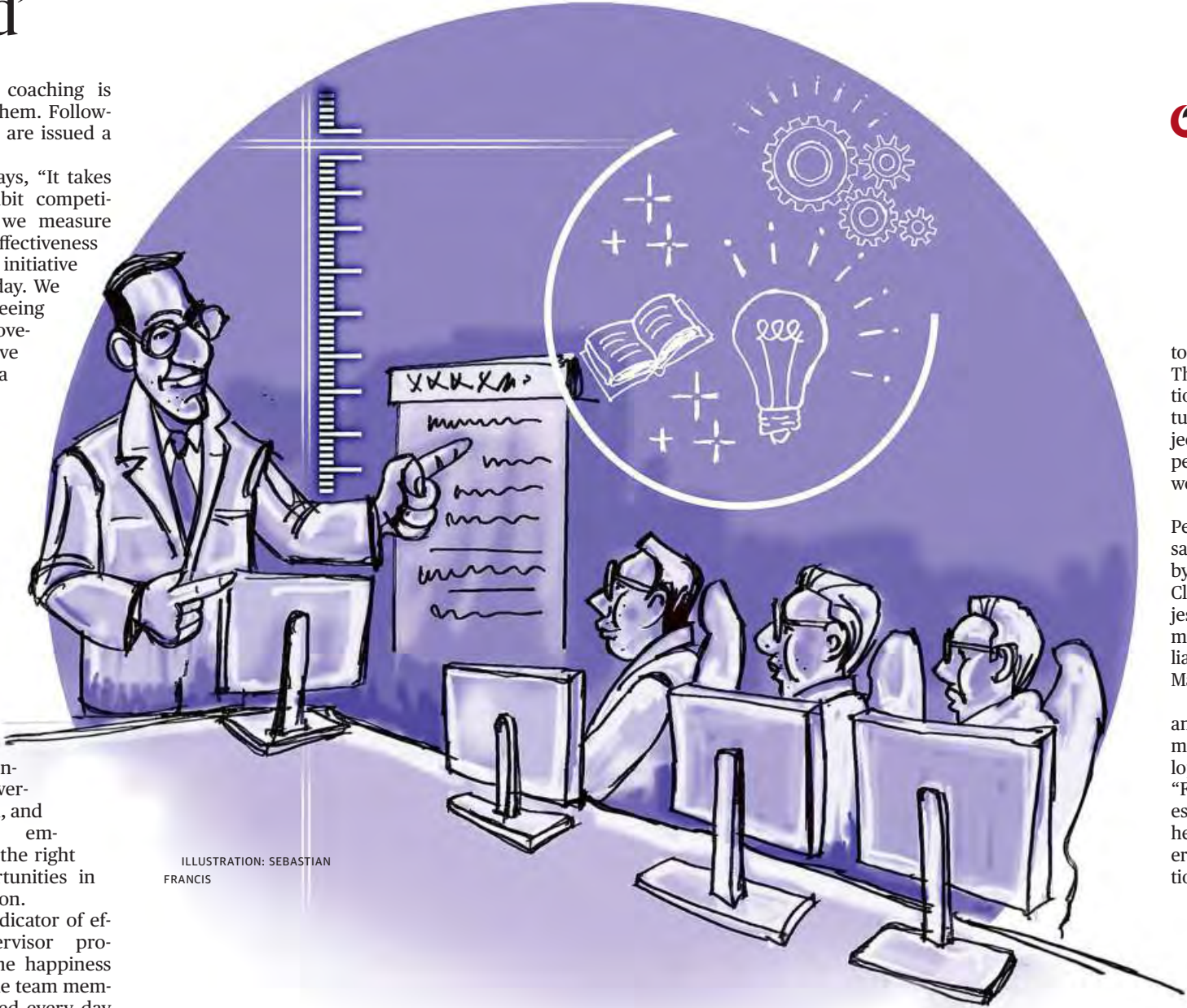


ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Internal talent development programmes will help identify leaders who understand the culture of the organisation very well

tored by the top leadership. They also get cross-functional exposure and opportunity to work on live projects. So, learning and performance are seamlessly woven together. “This year’s, KPI (Key Performance Indicator) for sales team was developed by members of the CEO Club themselves,” says Rakesh Derghawen, chief human resources officer, Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management Limited. Career progression is another factor that determines the success of development programmes. “From the last three batches, we have had 18 regional heads and five fund managers. Besides, national positions have been filled by talent from the CEOs Club,” says Derghawen, adding that 50% of key roles got filled this way in the last financial year. Besides savings for the company, this internal talent development programme helps identify leaders who understand the culture of the organisation very well and can therefore be effective from day one onwards, says Derghawen.

## ‘Employer reputation is a key factor’

More than 70% of job-seekers will not apply for a post if there is no information about a company’s employer reputation online, a survey by job-site Indeed has said. A vast majority (97%) of job aspirants in the country consider it essential to have an insight into a company’s “employer reputation” while considering a new job opportunity, the survey says. Close to 95% of job-seekers consider it important to have access to up-to-date information about a company while evaluating it. More than 65% of the respondents said they would automatically distrust the company if there was no information about its “employer’s reputation”. Employer reputation is one of the key factors that are considered by job-seekers while deciding on which companies to apply to. When it comes to belief in the genuineness of job postings, 72% of the employees said that they would not consider a job opportunity real, if there was no information about a company’s employer reputation available online, the survey said. The survey also revealed that the employees’ focus went beyond salary and employment perks, career prospects and stability. It said “63% of job-seekers have said online company reviews by current and former-employees would be the most important factor when trying to decide whether to apply for a role at a company.” The survey said that almost two-thirds (65%) of the respondents said their perception of a company would become more positive if an employer responded to a negative review online.

# ‘42% of the companies struggle with sourcing quality tech talent’

PTI

Digital transformation may be sweeping across domains, but finding talent is a challenge for companies, says a report by Mercer Mettl titled ‘Tech Hiring and Technology Adoption Trends 2019’. For 42% of the companies that have been surveyed, sourcing top-tech candidates was the biggest challenge in recruitment. The report is based on a survey of 350 industry leaders from over 200 companies of different sizes. According to the report, one-fifth (20%) of the respondents cited the time taken to close a tech position as the primary reason for the potential engagement to fall through. The report further reveals that a competitor firm offering better pay package constituted more than half of the reasons (60%) for a candidate to decline a job offer. Recruiters also reported that they have conducted re-hiring exercises for the same position 23% of the times in a financial year, it says. The main reasons (85%) for a candidate accepting a job offer include pay and quality of work. Regarding the channels used by tech recruiters to source candidates, more than one-fifth (23%) of the respondents say they depend on employee referrals while 22% used job portals and forums. On the other hand, organ-



REPRESENTATIONAL PICTURE

The Mercer Mettl report is based on a survey of 350 industry leaders from over 200 companies of different sizes.

isations (12%) that conducted campus hiring reported of having the highest success rate by closing tech positions 67% of the time, it adds. While evaluating candidates, proficiency in the required tech skills was the top criterion for 20% of the organisations, while 18% of them tested the candidates with the objective of upskilling them, whenever necessary. In this case, cognitive ability and learning agility formed the basis for evaluation, it adds.

### NEWS BYTES

#### Recruitment drive in Nagpur

HCL has planned a mega recruitment drive in Nagpur on August 24 and 25. Engineering, non-engineering and diploma students as well as students who have completed their Class XII exams can take part in the drive. According to a press re-

lease, HCL started its business operations in Nagpur in April 2018 and has more than 800 employees servicing global accounts. It plans to increase the headcount at the Delivery Centre.

#### Summit on new technologies

The 5th edition of Data Platform Summit (DPS) 2019, a conference focusing on da-

ta, analytics, artificial intelligence and cloud technologies, will be held in Bengaluru from August 22 to 24. According to a press release, the summit organised by Data Platform Geeks (DPG) will feature sessions, round tables and technology tracks. Subject matter experts from 21 countries will discuss new-age technology. Data Science including Artificial Intelligence and Ma-

chine Learning, Business Intelligence and Advanced Analytics, Database Administration, Database Development, Cloud, IoT and NoSQL, Big Data and Open Source will be the focus of the summit. DPG is a global community of Data, Analytics and AI professionals with more than 3,00,000 members from 121 countries, the release adds. For registrations, log on to [www.dps10.com](http://www.dps10.com).

### GENERAL



## HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED

Regd. Office: 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai - 400020.  
CIN No. L23201MH1952GOI008858

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

Engineering

Quality Control

Fire & Safety

Human Resources

Legal

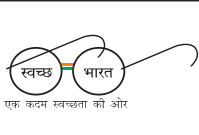
HPCL is a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise and a S&P Global Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company with a ranking of 58. HPCL has a strong presence in downstream hydrocarbon sector of the country with over 18% share in petroleum product marketing and also has business footprints across other energy verticals & various overseas geographies. During 2018-19, HPCL recorded gross sales of Rs. 2,95,713 crore and Profit after Tax (PAT) of Rs. 6,029 crore. HPCL invites applications from proficient and experienced professionals looking for exciting career opportunities in the areas mentioned above. Interested and eligible candidates can visit our career website <http://hindustanpetroleum.com/hpcareers/> for details and application.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

Commencement of online application : 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Last date of online application : 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Note : Advertisement released in Aug 2018 for the recruitment of Refinery Engineers, R&D Professionals, Fire & Safety Officer, QC Officers, Law Officers, Chess-Players stands cancelled. For further details please visit our website.



### GENERAL

#### Banks Board Bureau

Applications are invited from Indian nationals with exemplary track record for the post of

### MANAGING DIRECTOR and CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER For

1. Bank of Baroda
2. Bank of India
3. Canara Bank
4. Punjab National Bank

#### Eligibility

- Age: 45 to 57 years;
- Minimum experience: 15 years in mainstream banking of which at least one year should be at the Board Level.

#### How to Apply

- Application form & other details, are available at <http://www.banksboardbureau.org.in/WhatsNew/Index>

#### Last Date

- September 23, 2019

Secretary

Banks Board Bureau

NOTE: Further details including corrigendum, if any, will be published only on the Bureau’s website.



MARKET WATCH		
	20-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,328	-0.20
US Dollar	71.71	-0.39
Gold	38,770	0.51
Brent oil	59.02	-0.65

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	354.95	-2.45
Asian Paints	1595.15	8.70
Axis Bank	672.35	-12.65
Bajaj Auto	2742.95	17.45
Bajaj Finserv	7236.15	-140.50
Bajaj Finance	3294.10	-33.95
Bharti Airtel	358.05	-2.95
BPL	342.25	-4.75
Britannia Ind	2393.50	-84.90
Cipla	478.70	2.85
Coal India	195.30	-3.65
Dr Reddys Lab	2554.60	45.50
Elcher Motors	15895.75	-441.95
GAIL (India)	127.35	0.05
Grasim Ind	729.25	-3.10
HCL Tech	1084.00	19.95
HDFC	2090.10	-23.95
HDFC Bank	2220.60	13.75
Hero MotoCorp	2669.25	37.75
Hindalco	179.40	-1.75
Hind Unilever	1843.40	22.50
Indiabulls HFL	521.40	-15.45
ICIICI Bank	416.90	-6.50
IndusInd Bank	1404.85	-37.65
Infosys	255.55	0.25
Infratec	792.75	15.10
IndianOil Corp	124.20	-1.60
ITC	246.50	-5.05
JSW Steel	224.85	-1.35
Kotak Bank	1505.10	8.75
L&T	1342.50	-9.70
M&M	527.80	7.25
Maruti Suzuki	6190.95	208.40
NTPC	117.95	-0.95
ONGC	125.05	-1.25
PowerGrid Corp	206.05	-1.00
Reliance Ind	1275.95	-16.65
State Bank	283.70	-3.15
Sun Pharma	420.90	-5.10
Tata Motors	123.85	3.05
Tata Steel	358.25	-1.30
TCS	2186.75	23.75
Tech Mahindra	668.90	-1.45
Titan	1092.35	3.40
UltraTech Cement	4033.05	-125.10
UPL	539.90	2.10
Vedanta	142.40	-1.90
Wipro	253.30	1.20
YES Bank	71.20	-5.45
Zee Entertainment	350.85	2.80

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 20		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.50	71.82
Euro	79.21	79.56
British Pound	86.49	86.87
Japanese Yen (100)	67.28	67.61
Chinese Yuan	10.13	10.18
Swiss Franc	72.96	73.29
Singapore Dollar	51.59	51.83
Canadian Dollar	53.61	53.85
Malaysian Ringgit	17.08	17.18

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
August 20 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	48.2	(47.6)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3604	(3584)

## DHFL: ‘Banks may turn debt of ₹45,000-cr. into equity’

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI**

Resolving the crippled mortgage lender DHFL's over ₹90,000 crore debt is “not so easy” and banks are considering converting their outstanding into equity, Union Bank of India (UBI) said on Tuesday.

Rajkiran Rai, MD & CEO, UBI, which is the lead-lender to the crippled housing financier, clarified that if the banks take equity stake in the company, it will be for a short-term, which is, till they get a suitor.

DHFL owes over ₹45,000 crore to banks, and the rest to other financiers including mutual funds, pension funds and insurers, which are not regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

## Airlines to keep Jet's slots till December

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Various domestic airlines can keep Jet Airways' airport slots until December after the Centre on Tuesday extended their “temporary allocation” to different airlines by another five months, according to a senior official of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

As many as 440 out of the almost 750 slots belonging to Jet Airways were granted on an ad-hoc basis to different airlines, including IndiGo, SpiceJet and Vistara for a period of three months from May 1 after Jet Airways suspended its flight operations in mid-April.

Jet Airways is undergoing insolvency proceedings and at least three entities had submitted initial bids for the carrier.

# CG Power reports huge financial fraud

Advances to related, unrelated parties of the company and group may have been potentially understated, says risk panel

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

The Gautam Thapar-led CG Power and Industrial Solutions on Tuesday disclosed to the exchanges that some unauthorised transactions had been carried out by certain employees of the company, resulting in understating of liabilities, advances and net worth.

This resulted in the company's shares tanking 20% to ₹14.75 on Tuesday.

The 13-hour-long board meeting to consider the annual results of the company began at 3 p.m. on Monday and continued till 4 a.m. on Tuesday after the board was briefed by the company's Risk and Audit Committee (RAC) about certain findings that may have potential implications on the financial

position of the company.

### Liabilities understated

In a serious case of alleged misappropriation and misrepresentation of financial statements, the RAC had said total liabilities of the company and the group may have been potentially understated by approximately ₹1053.54 crore and ₹1,608.17 crore, respectively as on March 31, 2018; and by ₹601.83 crore and ₹401.83 crore respectively as on April 1, 2017.

“To ascertain and establish completeness of the liabilities, an initial exercise was conducted by making enquiries with lenders, current and past, for any additional claims from them in respect of either the company or its subsidiaries. Subject to appropriate legal exami-



**Under the lens:** Certain assets were provided as collateral without due authority, the company said. \*GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

nation of all such liabilities, these amounts have been either recorded as liabilities or disclosed as contingent liability in the management compiled financial information,” the company said in a filing with the exchanges.

The RAC had found that advances to related and unrelated parties of the company and the group may have been potentially understated by ₹1,990.36 crore and ₹2,806.63 crore respectively as on March 31, 2018; and by

₹1,479.34 crore and ₹1,331.47 crore respectively as on April 1, 2017.

“Certain assets of the company were purportedly provided as collateral without due authority. The company was made a co-borrower and/or guarantor for enabling ostensibly unrelated third parties to obtain loans without due authorisation,” CG Power said in a statement. The irregularities were detected when the Operations Committee under the chairmanship of one of the independent directors of the company, which was constituted in March 2019 to seek refinancing and as a part of conducting financial analysis in this regard, found some unauthorised transactions.

“These [transactions] were purportedly carried

out by identified company personnel (both current and past) including certain non-executive directors, certain key management personnel and other identified employees... without proper authorisation,” it said.

“The moneys so obtained were, without due authorisation, routed out of the company, either by itself or from its subsidiaries or ostensibly unrelated parties to certain related parties.”

The panel also found that the net worth of the firm was potentially understated due to unauthorised and inappropriate write-offs and charges debited to the Profit & Loss statement of the company during the year ended March 31, 2018, and April 1, 2017.

(With PTI inputs)

## Resolve stressed assets on time in your interest, RBI tells banks

Central bank making less intrusive rules: Deputy Governor

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor N.S. Vishwanathan has urged banks for timely resolution of stressed assets in their ‘own interest’.

Mr. Vishwanathan, who spoke at a banking seminar organised by industry body FICCI and the Indian Banks' Association, said that banks should resolve assets under the new framework that was announced by RBI in June to extract the best value, and emphasised the need for dealing only in ‘genuine’ cases.

“Timely resolution is very important. I'd request you to ensure that the resolutions are done in time, not just for



N.S. Vishwanathan

the regulatory requirement, but also because it will result in better valuation going forward,” the deputy governor in charge of banking regulation, said.

“We've given a lot of freedom to banks to determine various contours. We are making less intrusive regula-

tions and hope that banks will use this to deal with genuine stress in their balance sheets to address the problem,” he added.

### Compensation norms

Mr. Vishwanathan also said the RBI would soon come up with the final guidelines for top management compensation.

“Last year, we had issued draft guidelines on the revised compensation policy, aligning it with global guidelines. We have got excellent comments from the market, bankers and HR practitioners, and we will soon come out with final guidelines on the revised compensation policy,” he said.

## Compliance culture in banks not satisfactory, says RBI's Jain

Penalties of ₹123 crore levied on banks over seven months

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come down heavily on commercial banks after slapping a series of penalties for not complying with several regulatory guidelines.

Speaking at the FICCI-IBA banking seminar, RBI Deputy Governor in-charge of banking supervision M.K. Jain said that the compliance culture in the banking system was far from satisfactory.

### ‘Can benefit banks’

“It is important for banks to demonstrate good compliance culture... We appreciate the procedures to incorporate compliance



M.K. Jain

culture,” Mr. Jain said, adding a good compliance culture can benefit the banks in many ways.

He said following the global financial crisis, the importance of compliance had increased significantly, particularly in the areas of know-your-customer, anti-

money laundering and appropriateness of banking products, among others.

Between January and July this year, the banking regulator had imposed penalties worth about ₹122.9 crore on 70 occasions on banks for non-compliance, he said.

“A bank or a financial institution can suffer if it does not adhere to laws, rules, regulations and related self-regulatory standards or even codes of conducts applicable to its banking activities,” Mr. Jain said.

He also said some of the banking frauds – for which banks had suffered big losses – could have been avoided if they had had ‘good compliance culture’.

## Shell sells Mahanagar Gas stake for ₹770 crore

Firm exits city gas distribution vertical

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

Royal Dutch Shell Plc has exited the city gas distribution business in India.

Its unit BG Asia Pacific Holdings Pte. Limited has sold its remaining 10% stake in Mumbai's city gas distributor Mahanagar Gas Ltd. (MGL) for ₹770 crore, as part of its portfolio optimisation.

The firm sold 98.77 lakh MGL shares at ₹780 apiece in the open market on Tuesday, according to stock exchange data. Most of the shares were bought by institutional investors comprising mutual funds and insurance firms.

MGL was set up as a joint venture between Gail and British Gas with each holding 49% stake while the balance 2% was held by the Government of Maharashtra.

When MGL was listed in July 2016, both BG Asia Pacific Holdings Pte. Limited's and Gail India's stakes fell to 32.5% each and Government of Maharashtra's holding rose to 10%. In 2016, Royal Dutch Shell Plc took over BG Group Plc and later acquired its assets worldwide.

Last year, Shell sold 22.5% of its shareholding in two tranches – 8.5% in April and 14% in August – in the open market through bulk deals, after Gail India waived its first right of refusal.

Shell operates a 5-million-tonne a year liquefied natural gas import terminal at Hazira, Gujarat and a few petroleum retail outlets in south India. MGL sells compressed natural gas for automobiles and piped cooking gas to households in and around Mumbai.

## Govt. extends Pawan Hans EOI deadline

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The Centre on Tuesday extended the deadline for submission of expression of interest (EOI) for disinvestment of state-owned chopper company Pawan Hans Limited by three weeks from August 22.

The last date for submission of EOIs is now September 12, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

With this, the entire process is set to be delayed yet again as the government had earlier aimed to announce the short-listed bidders in September. In July, the Ministry had invited bids for selling its entire stake of 51% in Pawan Hans in its third attempt at privatising the company.

Pawan Hans has an active fleet of 35 helicopters.

## ‘Govt. measures needed to revive demand’

Tax cut at this point will boost sentiment, says Hyundai Motor India MD & CEO

**YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI**

Hyundai Motor India, which on Tuesday launched the Grand i10 Nios in India, is betting on the government to introduces measures, including tax cuts, to boost consumer sentiment. This, the company hopes, will help the industry reverse the prolonged fall in sales, failing which the slowdown could last for a long time, a senior company official said.

“If the government takes some counter measures within this year, maybe the situation will change immediately. Otherwise, for the customer to return to the normal situation... their earlier mindset of consumption and activities... it will take time. In my understanding, everybody is waiting and watching, [as to] what the government will do. People are delaying decisions be-



Hyundai Motor India MD and CEO S.S. Kim during the launch of Grand i10 Nios in New Delhi on Tuesday. \*KAMAL NARANG

cause there is a lot of uncertainty,” the MD and CEO S.S. Kim told *The Hindu*.

The i10 Nios, which has been developed at the cost of about ₹1,000 crore, is priced between ₹4.99 lakh and ₹7.99 lakh (ex-showroom) and will be available in petrol (BS-VI) and diesel (BS-IV)

variants. Asked about the launch of the new car amid slowing demand, Mr. Kim said, “... to change the market situation and to revive the demand, there are certain things that the government can do and there are some things that the OEMs can do... as an automotive

## SBI waives processing fee on vehicle loans

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

In a move to boost loan demand in the festive season, State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, has decided to waive processing fees on vehicle loans.

The bank charges a fixed rate of 8.7% for car loans and has sweetened the deal for customers applying through the bank's digital banking platform – there will be a discount of 25 basis points (bps) if the loan application comes via the bank's website or YO-NO, its mobile banking application.

“Salaried customers can also avail loan of up to 90% of the car's on-road price,” SBI said in a statement.

The lender also said personal loans are offered with interest rates starting from 10.75%, along with repayment period of six years. The move comes after the Reserve Bank decided to lower risk weight on personal and individual car loans, from 125% to 100%. The aim was to encourage banks to push more such loans.

### Education loan

SBI said it was offering education loans with interest rates starting from 8.25% for up to ₹50 lakh and up to ₹1.50 crore for studies in India and abroad, respectively.

“Customers will be offered the longest repayment tenure of 15 years, which effectively will reduce their EMI burden,” SBI said. Recently, SBI reduced its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate by 15 bps due to which the overall home loan interest rate is now lower by 35 bps.

## Growth in loans by private banks, NBFCs slows: Credit Suisse report

‘Auto sector crisis, more caution in lending prime reasons’

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

Growth in loans by private banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) has slowed down amid a slump in consumption demand, as economic growth continues to be sluggish.

According to a report by Credit Suisse, while slowdown in credit growth for non-banking finance companies was expected, the same is now witnessed by private sector lenders mainly due to moderation in vehicle loans.

“NBFCs' loan growth expectedly continued to decelerate and dipped to 11% y-o-y (2% q-o-q). Surprisingly, private banks' loan growth also came off to 15% y-o-y (1% q-o-q) even as deposit growth picked up. Moderation in vehicle loans in the



face of a slowdown in the auto sector and increased caution appear to be the prime reasons,” the report said.

NBFCs are facing a cash crunch after banks became cautious in lending to the sector post the debt default by IL&FS in October last year.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the government have taken several steps in

recent times to increase the credit flow to the sector. “NBFCs' growth continued to trend down amid credit differentiation by bond markets, with healthier ones, or those with strong parent backing, being able to tap comfortably into bond markets,” the report said.

### Unsecured loans

Apart from slowdown in auto loan growth which is mainly due to falling vehicle sales, unsecured loans' growth, which was strong in recent years, has seen some moderation, the report said.

RBI recently reduced the risk weight on unsecured personal loans and individual vehicle loans from 125% to 100% to encourage banks to lend more in these sectors.

## Mahindra Finance to buy 58.2% in Ideal

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. (Mahindra Finance) will acquire 58.2% stake in Ideal Finance Ltd., a fully-owned subsidiary of leading Sri Lankan conglomerate, Ideal Group. Mahindra Finance will invest LKR 2 billion until March 2021 for up to 58.2% stake in Ideal Finance, the company said. The investment is a significant step in Mahindra Finance's global expansion strategy, it added.

“We believe the Sri Lankan market holds great potential for growth. We see a long-term opportunity and are committed to bringing in the required capital and expertise to fuel this growth,” said Ramesh Iyer, vice-chairman and MD, Mahindra Finance.

## Blow to NMDC as Karnataka revokes Donimalai mine lease

State government also decides to auction the block

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD**

Public sector mining major NMDC on Tuesday said that the Karnataka Government had withdrawn the approval extending the mining lease of Donimalai mines granted to the company.

Further, the State government had decided to auction the said block, NMDC said in a regulatory filing to the stock exchange, on a day when its shares declined 11.49% to close at ₹90.15 apiece.

“Government of Karnataka vide its letter No. CI 78 MMM 2016 dated 17.08.2019 has... withdrawn the approval accorded... to extend the mining lease period of NMDC Ltd... at Donimalai and auction the said block,”

**The company says it has filed a revision application against the order, with the Union Ministry of Mines**

the filing said.

The company said it had filed a revision application against the order of the State government with the Union Ministry of Mines and the hearing had been fixed on August 21. The company has also requested the State government to withdraw its letter dated August 17 or keep it in abeyance.

The development comes a little over a month after NMDC got an order from the High Court of Karnataka

against the State government's proposal to levy a higher premium on the average sale price of iron ore.

According to analysts, pressure is bound to build up on NMDC with the State government putting the block for e-auction.

### Possible contenders

The possible contenders for the mine can be either merchant miners or steel producers. Further, Kumaraswamy mines is also due for renewal in October 2022. NMDC has four mines in Chhattisgarh, which are due for renewal in March.

Emkay Global said the development casts a question mark on the business model of all public sector mining companies.



IN BRIEF



**IL&FS case: no interim relief for Deloitte, BSR**  
NEW DELHI  
The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Tuesday declined to give any interim relief to auditing firms Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP and BSR Associates LLP with regard to a ban imposed on them in the IL&FS case. The NCLT Mumbai will continue its scheduled hearing in the case of their alleged role in the IL&FS fraud matter, a three-member bench headed by Chairperson Justice S.J. Mukhopadhyaya said.

**Wipro partners with IISc on robotics, 5G**  
BENGALURU  
Wipro announced a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G. They have jointly set up the Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN), a hybrid industry-academia collaboration unit, which will drive idea discovery, research and innovation in technology and product design, said the company.

**Dr. Reddy's launches generic anticonvulsant**  
HYDERABAD  
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has launched Vigabatrin Powder for Oral Solution, USP, an anticonvulsant, in the U.S.. A therapeutic equivalent generic version of Sabril (vigabatrin), the product has been launched with the USFDA approval. The Sabril brand and generic had U.S. sales of approximately \$274 million in moving annual total for the twelve months ended June 2019, the company said in a release.

# Tyre-maker TVS Srichakra unveils Eurogrip

Products to meet needs of millennial customers; company plans to enter new export markets

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI  
Leading two- and three-wheeler tyre manufacturer, TVS Srichakra Ltd., on Tuesday, announced the launch of TVS Eurogrip, a brand targeted at meeting the needs of the millennial customer. It also unveiled a new identity and a logo.  
Under the TVS Eurogrip umbrella, the company launched a portfolio of 19 premium tyres that include zero-degree steel belted radial tyres.  
These tyres will be produced in the two TVS Srichakra plants and cater to vehicles ranging from 70cc mopeds to 500cc superbikes.  
"India will remain a promising market for two-wheelers and we see tremen-



P. Vijayaraghavan, director, (left) and P. Srinivasavaradhan, president, TVS Srichakra, at the launch. ■BIJOY GHOSH  
dous growth opportunity... TVS Eurogrip will cater to the needs and requirements of the new-age Indian rider," said P. Vijayaraghavan, director, TVS Srichakra.  
Over the next six months, TVS Tyres (the existing brand) would get merged with TVS Eurogrip, according to P. Madhavan, executive vice-president, sales and marketing.  
Mr. Madhavan also said

**The firm has hired specialists to help understand global trends in tyre technology**  
The company had established an R&D centre in Milan some 7-8 months ago.  
The company had hired specialists to help understand international trends in the tyre technology space.  
Meanwhile, replacement sales and exports have helped the company to buck the current slowdown in the automobile industry.  
**Aftermarket sales up**  
"Our OEM sales have been coming down in the line with the slowdown in the automobile sector. However, the aftermarket sales is steadily climbing.  
"Exports are also growing rapidly. As far as exports are concerned, we are planning to enter new geographies and expand in existing geographies," said P. Srinivasavaradhan, president, TVS Srichakra Ltd.  
Asserting that the tyre industry did not feel the current impact of the economic slowdown like original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) did, he called it a 'temporary phase'.  
Pointing out that he had been witness to three-four recessions and that the 2007-08 recession had an impact on the tyre sector, Mr. Srinivasavaradhan said the long-term strategy of the company was to invest during a recession and consistently outgrow the market.

## Gold imports up 15.4% in April-July

Except for Feb., monthly growth in 2019 in double digits

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI  
The country's gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit (CAD), increased by 15.4% to \$13.16 billion (about ₹92,000 crore) during the April-July period of the current fiscal, according to Commerce Ministry data.  
Imports of the yellow metal stood at \$11.41 billion (about ₹80,000 crore) in the same period of 2018-19.  
CAD, which is the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange, increased to \$57.2 billion or 2.1% of GDP in 2018-19 as against 1.8% in the previous year.  
It stood at \$48.7 billion in 2017-18.  
Since January this year, gold imports have recorded



a double-digit growth, except in February, when it dipped by about 11%.  
India is the largest importer of gold, which mainly caters to the demand of the jewellery industry.  
**Annual import**  
In volume terms, the country imports 800-900 tonnes of gold annually.  
To mitigate the negative impact of gold imports on

trade deficit and CAD, the government increased the import duty on gold to 12.5% from 10% in this year's budget.  
**High duty impact**  
According to industry experts, there are apprehensions that sectoral players may shift their manufacturing bases to neighbouring countries due to high import duty on gold in India.  
The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) had expressed disappointment over the hike in import duty.  
Gems and jewellery exports declined 5.32% to \$30.96 billion in 2018-19.  
The country's gold imports dipped about 3% in value terms to \$32.8 billion during 2018-19.

## Maersk ropes in online trucking platform

Partnership with BlackBuck to facilitate 'seamless' container movement in India

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU  
Maersk, the Danish integrated container logistics firm, has roped in BlackBuck, an online marketplace for trucking.  
The partnership will facilitate online container trucking solutions to tie up both the export and import ends of logistics. Maersk and BlackBuck would jointly address key industry challenges around demand-supply visibility, real-time tracking and improving asset utilisation by creating better network visibility for customers, the company said.  
The partnership is expected to amplify Maersk's efforts towards accelerating innovation in the logistics space, enabling trade and supporting the vision of be-



coming the global integrator of container logistics.  
**'Fragmented vendors'**  
Speaking at a media conference, Arjun Maharaj, head of sales, Maersk – South Asia, said, "Our customers are dealing with fragmented vendors with varying service levels of communication, geographical, financial & infrastructural disparities re-

## Srei Equipment to raise ₹100 crore via NCDs

Issue proposed to be listed on BSE

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOLKATA  
Srei Equipment Finance Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited, is proposing to come out with a public issue of secured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures with ₹1,000 face value each, to raise ₹100 crore.  
It has the option to retain oversubscription of up to ₹400 crore, totalling up to ₹500 crore. The issue is currently open and closes on September 18, the company said in a statement.  
The NCDs have a credit rating of 'BWR AA' with 'negative' outlook by Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited and 'Acutite AA-' by Acuite Ratings and Research.  
search. Instruments with such ratings are considered to have a high degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations and carry low risk, the company said in the statement.  
A company spokesperson said that the negative outlook pertained to that of the sector and not that of the company.  
**10.65% per annum**  
The highest coupon is 10.65% per annum for a 5-year tenor. The lowest rate is 10.1% for one year.  
The issue is proposed to be listed on the BSE. Lead managers to the tranche one issue are Karvy Investor Services Limited, SMC Capitals Limited and Srei Capital Markets Limited.

**The two firms will jointly address key challenges around demand-supply visibility and real-time tracking**  
sulting in suboptimal supply chains.  
"At Maersk, we have committed ourselves to working with partners who understand these challenges, match our set of values and have expertise in both logistics and technology."  
To speed up its digital transformation journey, Maersk has entered into collaborations with start-ups that are capable of addressing various logistics challenges pertaining to cost and efficiencies.  
The Indian government has set a target to reduce lo-

gistics cost from 14% of the GDP to less than 9% by 2022.  
Maersk has also launched an accelerator programme OceanPro, and digital solutions developed by start-ups here are already being implemented to accelerate technology innovation in shipping and logistics industry in India and globally.  
Maersk has 29,000 customers in India. Every one out of five dry containers and every one out of four refrigerated containers is a Maersk container.  
BlackBuck, an Indian start-up, claims to be the country's largest trucking network with over 3,00,000 partner trucks operating across 3,000 villages and 400 industrial and services more than 10,000 clients across industry verticals.



# A step, well back in time

A new book on Delhi's stepwells, by heritage-enthusiast Vikramjit Singh Rooprai will be launched on Friday. A look into what went into its making

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Vikramjit Singh Rooprai wants to “chuck the formal subject of history and bring in a little bit of the subject in everything” that students are taught in school – even science and mathematics. The 36-year-old Delhiite who started a company called Heritageshaala in 2017 does this just in his talks to schools and colleges.

He is a software engineer-turned marketing consultant, and is now a full-time heritage educator, quitting his job in 2016. Seven years before he made the switch, he'd started reading up on Delhi's monuments and its culture, even starting a Facebook page called The Heritage Photography Club, encouraging people to visit various sites and submit photos on the page.

On Friday, Rooprai, who's been spearheading these and many other heritage initiatives like walks around the city, will be launching his first book, called *Baolis*, published by Niyogi. This is only the first volume in a series called Delhi Heritage Top 10, which aims to be a “comprehensive guide to Delhi's heritage icons and architectural gems.”

This is the first of its kind in that it exclusively focuses on the stepwells of Delhi. It is a guidebook of sorts, with Rooprai listing the capital's

32 known baolis, expanding into longer notes on each of his top 10, including details of their location and accessibility.

Ahead of the launch, he talks about how he got into and taught himself about his city's heritage, and the research that went into this book.

Edited excerpts.

**In [historian] Sohail Hashmi's forward to your book, he ends with the thought that restoration of Delhi's stepwells might help in replenishing its water-table. You however, are more sceptical about this. Why?**

What I feel is that while it is possible to recharge the water table, I just think it isn't easy. The amount of political will required for this...and then you have to deal with the builder mafia, etc. Also people who've been able to buy even a small piece of land to build their houses after decades of hard work – and now you're asking them to modify their structures or land use? Major structural changes on 30, 40, 50-year-old homes are not easy – or cheap. This requires a bigger movement, something as big as the 1857 revolt, where the entire country was shook.

**You had to learn Urdu to continue your research. When did you start, how long did it take you?**

I started learning Urdu in 2013. I went online, a friend tried to teach me too,



**Time travel in the city** (Clockwise from top) Vikramjit Rooprai; a view from the Munirka Baoli; at the Red Fort Baoli; and below, a view of the Rajon ki Baoli • VIKRAMJIT SINGH ROOPRAI AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

but that wasn't too efficient because I was not regular. Then, I joined the Zabaan School for Languages in Kalkaji for a four-class crash-course. That really helped. After that, I purchased a lot of books in Urdu and started reading them. In total it took me about 4-6 months to read a sentence in a flow. It's been 3-4 years now, but I can do it slowly.

**You mention that you had dipped into archival material in Japanese too.**

Yes. There is one book [Delhi, architectural remains of the Delhi Sultanate period], and it's probably the biggest treasure on Delhi's built-heritage, done by Tatsurō Yamamoto, Matsuo Ara, Tokifusa Tsukinowa, and Taichi Oshima, who were students at the University of Tokyo in the 1950s [published in 1970]. It was recently digitized, and you can use Google Translate to read it. There are beautiful pictures – the authors had apparently left copies with various individuals and libraries around here, but only a few remain. One with [historian] Prof. Narayani Gupta and a couple copies at the Central Archaeological Library.

**In your book, you mention the first time that you went to Rajon ki Baoli [in Mehrauli Archaeological Park], along with the exact date of visit too. Can you recall the date?**

There was a point when I thought, 'I've travelled to a lot of places through India, but knew nothing about Delhi'. Which is when I demarcated Delhi into north, south, east, west, and decided to use my weekends to explore these sections in detail.

When I reached Satpula, I was mesmerised. From there, I went to the Mehrauli Archaeological Park and came to the Rajon ki Baoli. At that time, the Jamali Kamali mosque was open too – what we saw inside...*jaise pairon ke neeche se zameen kisak gayi*. It's just so beautiful.

The common refrain when I asked around for more details about these places is ‘the government doesn't do anything for them.’ So I figured I'd do something – which is when I started promoting the place. For one entire year, I would return to Mehrauli Archaeological Park every other weekend. I



tried to document almost every piece of stone I saw. Even today, I end up finding something new there each time I visit.

**You've used photos from ASI archives. How easy or hard is it, as a lay person who's interested in Delhi heritage, to access this?**

It's very easy. All you need to do is go to their library, which is open and free for the public, and tell them you want to see these drawings, or books. I just wrote to them, and spent about three months at their photo archives. But this is limited to only monuments under the ASI – which is 174 monuments. Not all the baolis come under ASI protected structures. So the conjectural site plans you see in the book [other than the Ferrozshah Kotla Baoli] have been done by my former colleague at Heritageshaala, Nupur Bhatnagar, who is an architect.

**Similarly, there are quite a few baolis listed in the book that require ASI permission to visit. Is it easy to get this permission?**

They're very responsive. You just have to write to the head of the Delhi circle, or the Director General of ASI. Depending on what you want to do there, they can grant or deny you permission. If your motive is merely tourism, it might be hard to get because some of the structures are fragile or risky to be opened up to the stream of general pu-



## OTHER NOTABLE BOOKS ON INDIA'S STEPWELLS

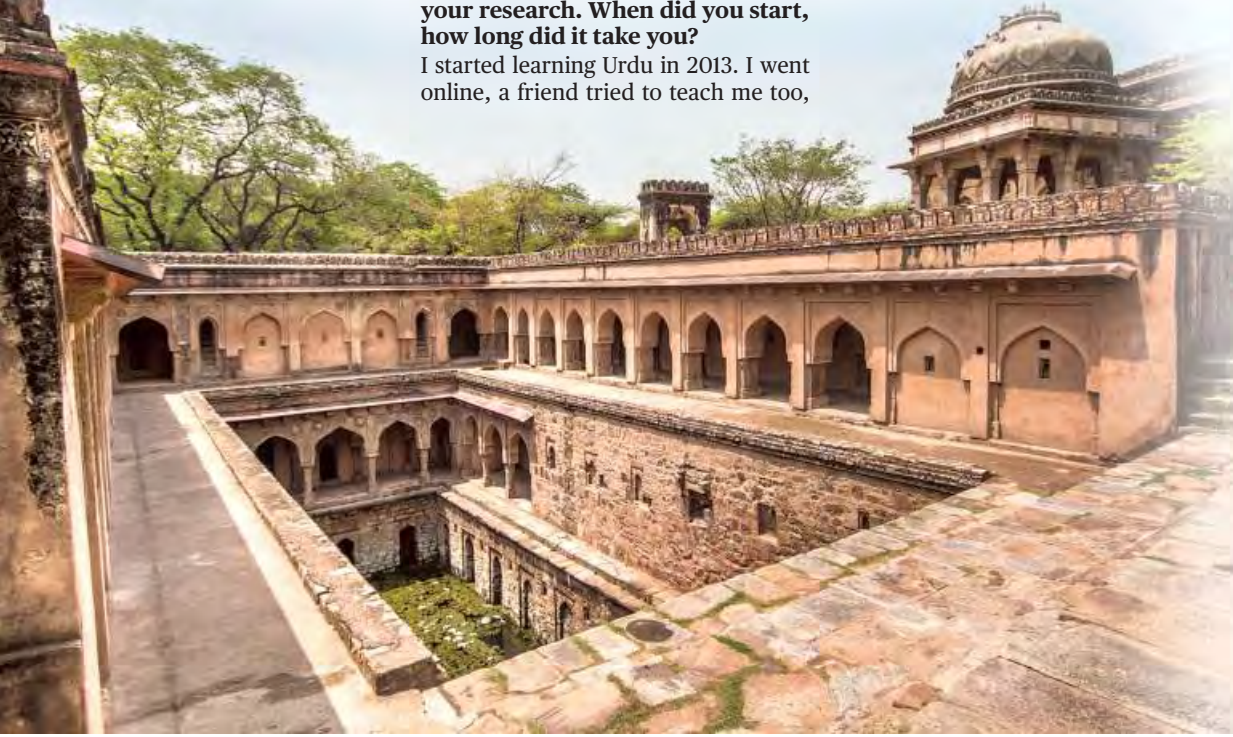
**THE QUEEN'S STEPWELL AT PATAN** by academic Kirit Mankodi, back in the early '90s, provided insight into the restoration of the Rani ki Vav in Gujarat

**STEPS TO WATER: THE ANCIENT STEPWELLS OF INDIA**

by architectural photographer Morna Livingston in 2002 gave a birds-eye view into these structures across India

**THE VANISHING STEPWELLS OF INDIA**

by a Chicago-based freelance journalist Victoria Lautman in 2017 recorded her travels to various stepwells in the country in a photo-book



## FOOD REVIEW

# I'll take this table, please

Plum by Bent Chair Lutyens is Delhi in a nutshell: everything's over the top, and you can walk in, and buy it all, except the real estate

SUNALINI MATHEW

Concept stores are having a moment. As are immersive experiences, collaborations, on-line furniture shopping, and 'Asian' cuisine. In a mash-up (mish-mash) of all of these is Plum by Bent Chair Lutyens, where Bent Chair is a furniture company by daughter-father duo Natasha and Neeraj Jain that retails online, and at similar concept stores, in Mumbai, and Delhi's Aerocity.

Plum brings in the food by Priyank Sukhija, Delhi's successful mass-market restaurateur (Lord of the Drinks, Lazeez Affaire). Here's how the experience works: you walk in to art and statement pieces (about 80 pieces of furniture and 400 home décor bits), order (Pan-Asian) food which appears in mismatched crockery, and then leaf through the menu again, to see if you'd like to shop anything in the retail-restaurant space. You can check

off the animal-print upholstered, round-backed chair immediately; or the gold lip-shaped napkin holder.

**The vibe:** A little overpowering, even dark. This is your space if you can order food, while taking in plum-hued walls with faux plants cascading down from brass stands on the ceiling, poly-resin horses eerily cut in half, their heads



on one wall and body and tails on another. “Quirky” is how it's described on the menu. You'll either want to stay a long time and look at every OTT chair and table, or get the hell out – now.

**Do try:** Like most of Sukhija's places, this is not gourmet food, but the 162-dish menu is decent enough and you'll find something among the 13 divi-

sions (soups and salads, baos, burgers and so on). We had the Pork Rib With Black Rice (all sticky and earthy with flavour) and the Fermented Garlic Oil Chicken With Sticky Rice and Edamame, reasonably good. The Black Pepper Chicken, Prawn Tempura, Rock Shrimp all went well with the drinks (I tried the Elderflower and Blueberry Spritzer, which I'd do

**OTT with a side of food** Asian Duck Sliders; interiors at Plum by Bent Chair Lutyens

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

again). Also try the Nutella sushi, gimmicky but effective, with a banana centre, rice coloured green around, and the choco-hazelnut goo all over.

**Skip:** The healthy stuff. You're sitting in what you'd picture as a gangster's paradise – you really don't want Steamed Prawns.

**Go with:** Someone who is not easily overwhelmed by an onslaught of colour. Avoid taking kids, because there's not much space between tables.

**Space bar:** 3,000 sq ft, 80 covers

**How much?** ₹2,000 for two (sans alcohol)

**Reach:** No.22, Janpath, (above the Lexus showroom); there's valet parking and sparse public transport

## PRODUCT

### Slinging the blues

Pure Ghee, an accessories brand influenced by the colours and textiles of India, recently launched its new collection, Neel. This collection of indigo bags is inspired by the Indian monsoon. The limited edition Neel Arya Sling Shibori is made using the technique of Shibori tie-and-dye, and is enhanced with hints of hand embroidery. The leather strap adds definition. The Neel Japani Potli Indigo, a replica of the traditional Japanese drawstring purse, is made with Mashru silk, which imparts a subdued sheen. The ends of the ties are finished with handmade textile flowers.



Available on at [Puregheedesigns.com](http://Puregheedesigns.com), upwards of ₹2,450

Contact us us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



TALK

**Academic**  
Social Works is holding a discussion Hometown Hustlers: The Age of the Polymaths. The talk will have new age polymath professionals on a panel to discuss every aspect of their twisted but rewarding journey. Speakers include architect Virkein Dhar, singer Tanya Nambiar, and historian-cum-environmentalist Pradip Krishen.  
**VENUE:** Hauz Khas Social, Near Deer Park  
**TIME:** 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.



ART

**Mixed media**  
An ongoing exhibition titled The Famous Returns is an international group art show, organised by Kalaakar Foundation. It showcases a series of modern paintings and sculptures. The participating artists include Harishankar Balothia, Laxman Kumar, Harikant Dubey, Sunil Suyal and Mala Negi.  
**VENUE:** AIFACS, 1 Rafi Marg  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



MUSIC

**Classical performances**  
Raza Foundation is presenting the 15th edition titled Aarambh, its series of classical music and dance to promote young talent. This one-day event will feature performances like a flute recital by Rajat Prasanna, a Bharatanatyam dance by Radhika Kathal and a Kathak recital by Shipra Joshi.  
**VENUE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House  
**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.



GIG

**Rock**  
The Piano Man Jazz Club is hosting the Indian rock band SteelRush tonight. Influenced by bands like Europe, Def Leppard, and Winger, SteelRush defines their music as a mixture of hard rock and AOR (album-oriented rock). This two-member outfit consists of Apoorv Chouhan on the vocal and Adham Saxena on the guitar.  
**VENUE:** B 6-7/22 Safdarjung Enclave Market  
**TIME:** 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



FILM

**The River**  
This 1951 technicolour film is based on a novel of the same name by English author Rumer Godden. Directed by Frenchman Jean Renoir, the film eloquently contrasts the growing pains of three young women, including a British girl, living in Bengal, who in love with Captain John, an older American soldier who returns from war.  
**VENUE:** C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.



This yoga teacher rides off into the yonder in her spare time



No biker chick Sangeetha Jairam on her many adventures  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



# The happiness of a long-distance biker

SHEILA KUMAR

“I’m no biker chick,” Sangeetha Jairam says firmly. “I am more of an adventure-traveller; my motorcycle is something of a companion-teacher, who has taught, and continues to teach me, a lot about life.”

Biker chick or no, Jairam, who is within eye-balling distance of 50 but doesn’t look it, is definitely one more name added to the growing number of women who make long-distance rides on their motorcycles. Her most recent ride was from Finland to Norway in June 2019. She was part of a group of eight motorcyclists, all riding Japanese bikes, who rode from Helsinki to Nordkapp and back, covering a distance of around 3,600 kilometres in 12 riding days.

Jairam rode a Kawasaki ER6n, a 600cc motorcycle. The itinerary was Helsinki-Kuopio-Kuusamo-Ivalo-Skarsvag-Rovaniemi-Vaasa, and back to Helsinki.

“That was indeed one great experience,” she says, enthusiastically. “Our daily distance bar was set at 500-plus kilometres, and since it was summer in Finland, the sun shone all day and all night, and we couldn’t tell the difference!”

Everything pointed North on that trip. The European Highway E69, has its northern terminus at the North



Cape, the northernmost point in Europe accessible by road. The Cape has a 307-metre-high-cliff with a large plateau on top, where visitors, weather permitting, can watch the midnight sun and view the Barents Sea to the North.

“The best part of the ride was reaching Nordkapp, Land’s End of the European continent, 2,093 kilometres from the North Pole,” says Jairam. “To get there, we had to ride around the Arctic Sea, which was a stunningly scenic road. I had my first

Jairam is one more name added to the growing number of women who make long-distance rides on their motorcycles

ever experience of the Arctic gale there. At times, it took real effort to keep the motorcycle from rising up in the air! Since it’s the Arctic region, there was hardly any vegetation except rolling grasslands and lots of reindeer skipping across the road. It was truly an amazing ride.”

Jairam inherited a passion for bikes from her father. “After he graduated, my father returned to India from Germany in 1964 on a motorcycle! All my childhood, I saw him on a



motorcycle, so it was only normal for me to ride one.”

Currently, she alternates between riding a Royal Enfield Himalayan and a Hero MotoCorp Impulse, but her all-time favourites continue to be the BMW, Triumph and Honda motorcycles.

## Meeting challenges

It’s not all been smooth riding, of course. While riding in Bhutan, some years ago, she got over the Pele La pass and the bike had a flat tyre. “It was 4pm, not a good time to be stuck

in the mountains,” she recalls. “It was late, the light was fading and the skies opened up! Then, a lone vehicle came over the pass, a pick-up truck, onto which my bike was loaded; the next repair shop was 70 kilometres ahead, and on that track, it meant a travel time of four hours. But this experience taught me that bikers are blessed; my initial dismay turned to pure exhilaration!”

Discussing her enthusiasm for riding bikes, Jairam, who often takes solo trips, says riding motorcycles is a hobby and travelling to experience new places and people is a passion. “I would not call it an expensive hobby because this is what I love doing most. There is little else I spend on, I save to moto-travel.”

Jairam grew up in Coorg and did her schooling at The Lawrence School, Lovedale in the Nilgiris, where she says she had the best time of her life. “I always wanted to ‘give back’ to the school, and three years ago, I was fortunate enough to be able to introduce yoga into the school curriculum.”

Interacting with children has to be the best job on earth, she avers. “Children are awesome, they keep me fully engaged. Just like riding motorcycles, my day job, too, has taught me so much and given me immeasurable happiness.”

# SHOWCASE 19

## AUTO SNIPPETS



### Bajaj launches new Pulsar 125

Bajaj has launched the new Pulsar 125 Neon at ₹64,000 for the drum brake variant and ₹66,618 for the front disc brake variant (both prices, ex-showroom, Delhi). The new Pulsar 125 is powered by a 124.38cc, single-cylinder, two-valve air-cooled engine that makes peak power and torque figures of 12hp and 11Nm, respectively. The Pulsar 125 borrows its styling from the larger Pulsar 150 Neon and also shares components like the telescopic fork, twin shock absorbers and 17-inch wheels. However, the Pulsar 125 features a Combi-Braking System (CBS) instead of ABS.



### Maruti drops Ertiga 1.3 diesel

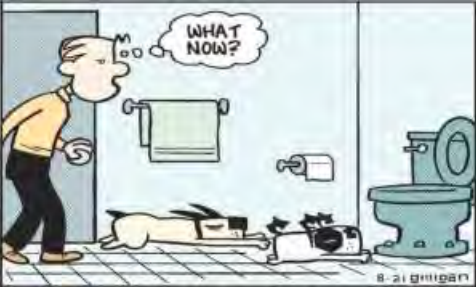
Maruti Suzuki has dropped the 1.3-litre diesel-powered Ertiga variants from its line-up. The Fiat-sourced MultiJet diesel was a mainstay of the Ertiga line-up, having been offered in the MPV since its inception. The Ertiga is now available with the choice of the 105hp, 1.5-litre mild-hybrid petrol motor or the brand’s 95hp, 1.5-litre diesel engine that debuted in the Ciaz earlier. The petrol motor is available with either a 5-speed manual or 4-speed automatic gearbox with the diesel unit offered with a 6-speed manual only.



### New Jeep Wrangler launched

Jeep has launched the new Wrangler in India in its five-door Sahara trim. The SUV is available with a sole petrol engine option priced at ₹63.94 lakh (ex-showroom, pan-India). It features a lowered beltline, a tweaked version of Jeep’s iconic seven-slat grille, larger tail-lamps and rear windscreen, and a lower-set tailgate-mounted spare wheel to aid rear visibility. Inside, it is equipped with kit such as an 8.4-inch infotainment screen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, dual-zone climate control, ambient lighting, and a tyre-pressure monitoring system.

## POOCH CAFE



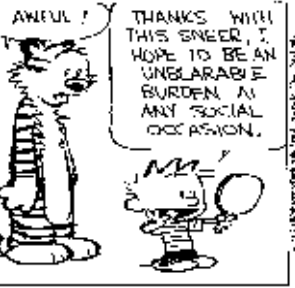
## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CALVIN AND HOBBS



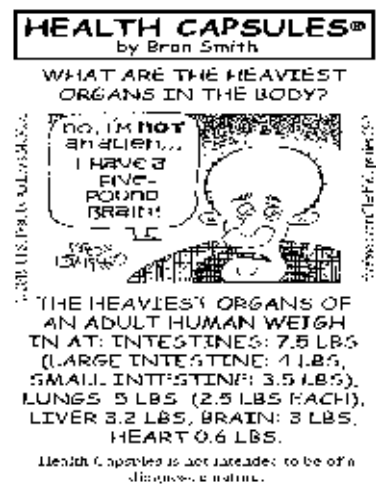
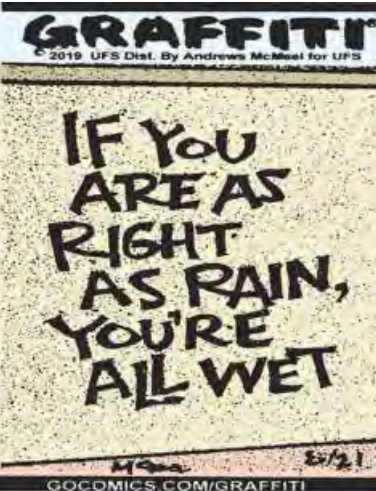
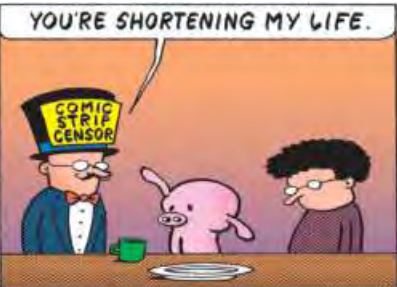
## TIGER



## WUMO



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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1 Opportunities (7)  
8 One of the variants of an element sharing an atomic number but with differing chemical properties (7)  
9 Word made up of initial letters (7)  
10 Own (7)  
11 Register (5)  
13 Appalling (9)  
15 Heart chamber (9)

- 18 Disreputable — out of the sun (5)  
21 Ship’s windlass used for lifting heavy weights (7)  
22 Small area off a kitchen (7)  
23 Vocal vibrato — lot more (anag) (7)  
24 No longer active (7)  
■ Down  
1 Fad (5)  
2 Clothes-drying frame

- (5)  
3 Big blaze (13)  
4 Silly smile (6)  
5 Conker tree (5,8)  
6 Regain consciousness (4,2)  
7 Camera attachments (6)  
12 Designation — reputation (4)  
14 Second-hand (4)  
15 Leave (a place previously occupied) (6)  
16 Sibling’s son (6)  
17 Large American culture (6)  
19 Following (5)  
20 Bring in — give up (5)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 22, 2019.

Solution No. 13153

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# Prannoy prevails over Lin Dan

Makes pre-quarterfinals; Ashwini & Sikki get a walkover in opening match

## BADMINTON WORLDS

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
BASEL (SWITZERLAND)  
India's H.S. Prannoy stunned London Olympics gold medalist and multiple-time world champion Lin Dan in a hard-fought match to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the World badminton championships here on Tuesday.  
The unseeded Indian beat the highly-decorated Chinese, seeded 11th, 21-11, 13-21, 21-7 in an hour and two minutes in the second round.  
In the pre-quarterfinals, Prannoy will meet top seed Kento Momota of Japan who eased past Enrique Penalver of Spain 21-10, 21-7.



**Super show:** H.S. Prannoy was not intimidated by the reputation of the former world No. 1 Lin Dan, winning in three games. • REUTERS

**Dominant**  
Prannoy completely dominated the first game and led all the way after 2-2. The Indian was ahead 10-5 and then raced to 19-11 before pocketing it. In five meetings between the two, Prannoy has emerged victorious thrice.  
Lin, who had also won gold in the 2008 Olympics, apart from seven World titles, roared back in the second game.  
They were tied 5-5 but

from there on, the Chinese legend did not give any chance to Prannoy.  
Prannoy, however, was not going to be intimidated by the reputation of the former world No. 1.

**Pulling away**  
The Indian reserved the best for the last and left Lin far behind after being 4-4 and wrapped up the match.  
In another clash, B. Sai

Praneeth scored a 21-16, 21-15 victory over South Korea's Lee Dong Keun.  
In women's doubles, Ashwini Ponappa and N. Sikki Reddy got a walkover from Chinese Taipei's Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun in their opening match.  
**The results:**  
**Men (second round):** H.S. Prannoy bt Lin Dan (Chn) 21-11, 13-21, 21-7; B. Sai Praneeth bt Lee Dong Keun (Kor) 21-16, 21-15;  
**Doubles (first round):** M.R. Ar-

jun & Shlok Ramchandran bt Tobias Kuenzi & Oliver Schaller (Sui) 21-14, 21-16; Manu Atti & B. Sumeeth Reddy bt Gicquel Thom & Labar Ronan (Fra) 21-13, 21-13; Takuto Inoue & Yuki Kaneko (Jpn) bt Arun George & Sanyam Shukla 21-18, 21-11.  
**Women's doubles (first round):** Ashwini Ponappa & N. Sikki Reddy w/o Chang Ching Hui & Yang Ching Tun (Tpe).  
Hsu Ya Ching & Hu Ling Fang (Tpe) bt Pooja Dandu & Sanjana Santosh 21-15, 21-14.

## Competition in Tests is up two-fold: Kohli

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)  
Excited about playing in the inaugural World Test Championship, India captain Virat Kohli says the competition in the traditional format has "gone up two-fold" in recent years.  
The inaugural edition will see the elite nations fight for top honours across 71 Test matches in 27 series over the next two years.  
According to the star India batsman, "People have been talking about Test cricket not being relevant or dying down."  
"For me, the competition has gone up two-fold the last couple of years. It's up to the players to take the challenge and go for victories."

## WI needs to work on mental aspect: Lara

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)  
Brian Lara is impressed with the talent available in West Indies cricket but he wants the youngsters to work on the "mental aspect" of their game ahead of the Test series against India starting on Thursday.  
Lara and Ramnaresh Sarwan have been invited by Cricket West Indies to conduct a session with the Test squad before the start of the two-match series.  
"Where I feel I can make an impact is their mental approach to the game. The practical side is there for the young players but I feel mentally they can grow a little bit and learn a little bit more," Lara said.

## Rain has the final say

**DULEEP TROPHY**  
**ASHWIN ACHAL**  
BENGALURU  
Rain and wet outfield continued to disrupt the Duleep Trophy match between India Green and India Blue, which ended in a dull draw at Just Cricket ground here on Tuesday.  
No play was possible on the final day, much like the previous two days. Both teams shared a point each. The match witnessed only 49 overs of action on the first day, with India Blue moving to 112 for six.  
The next outing, between India Red and India Blue, begins on Friday.

## Bangar stakes claim for retention

### SUPPORT STAFF

**AMOL KARHADKAR**  
MUMBAI  
While a majority of India players took it easy in Antigua on Tuesday morning – a day after the three-day warm-up game ahead of the first Test – most of the support staff members spent a hectic morning, staking a claim for retention in an interview with the national selection panel. Sanjay Bangar, the batting coach for five years, would have been the most anxious of the lot.  
Bangar interacted with M.S.K. Prasad & Co., who sat at the BCCI headquarters, through video-conferencing. While Bangar's record – along with his fellow-assistant coaches, B. Arun for bowling and R. Sridhar for fielding – is impeccable, there are murmurs of a push for a change from a camp in the India dressing room.

**Intriguing**  
It was intriguing that Ravi Shastri, a day after being reappointed as the head coach last week, didn't even make a mention of Bangar in an interview while highlighting the achievements of Arun and Sridhar. Shastri is also understood to have made a strong pitch for a change in batting coach –



**Anxious moments:** Incumbent Sanjay Bangar was interviewed for the post of batting coach on Tuesday. • REUTERS

and preferred an Indian for the role – during his interaction with the Cricket Advisory Committee last week.  
However, it will be interesting to see if the selection panel decides to look beyond Bangar for a possible replacement from a dozen other candidates. *The Hindu* understands that whether to opt for a new batting coach will be finalised after Prasad's informal discussion with captain Kohli. Despite Shastri's reservation about him, Kohli has established an excellent rapport with Bangar.

**Front-runner**  
If the selectors decide for a change in guard, Vikram Rathour, the former India opener, will be the front-runner, with Mumbai stal-

wart Amol Muzumdar likely to be an underdog. The duo was also interviewed last month for the National Cricket Academy batting coach position in Bengaluru.  
Despite a question mark over Rathour's alleged conflict of interest due to his family relations with India U-19 chief selector Aashish Kapoor, Rathour is a top contender for the India job.  
The selectors interacted with Sridhar and Jonty Rhodes via video-link, while India-A fielding coach Abhay Sharma and former Pakistan and Bangladesh fielding coach Julien Fountain appeared in person.  
Physios and trainers will be interviewed on Wednesday and Thursday is reserved for the administrative manager's post.

# There are no simple answers, but we must learn to care



**BETWEEN WICKETS**  
SURESH MENON

The processes which lead a man to take his own life are at least as complex and difficult as those by which he continues to live. This is from Al Alvarez's study of suicide, *The Savage God*. To find a rationale for suicide – especially one involving a friend – is near-impossible. But we try. The shock is followed by the question: What could I have done? Family and close friends must feel the helplessness of that query with far greater force.  
When the news of V.B. Chandrasekhar's death came, it wasn't his entertaining batting that flashed into my mind, but his smiling eyes and the look of a man satisfied you had enjoyed his spontaneous one-liner.  
Once, during a function, he asked why I was going home early. "I have a little baby waiting," I said of my son, then a few months old. "So you want to go home and watch him grow?" he asked.  
It is tempting to look for simple answers to the complicated question of why a man apparently in good health and much loved should

choose to self-destruct. As Mike Bearley wrote in the foreword to David Frith's book on cricket suicides, *Silence of the Heart*, "In the end, we know little.... human motivation is mysterious." Perhaps it was a financial problem, perhaps it was a combination of issues; nothing matters now. VB loved cricket, and cricket loved him back, welcoming him back in various capacities, as coach, selector, commentator, team owner. In each of those fields he left his mark.

**Understanding failure**  
On the New Zealand tour of 1989-90, he began with scores of 92 (13 fours and four sixes), opening the batting with Navjot Sidhu, and made 71 in the next game, opening with W.V. Raman. Yet, when Sidhu

had to return home with injury, Chandrasekhar didn't open in the Tests. Manoj Prabhakar did, as Dilip Vengsarkar replaced Sidhu. In the end he finished his career with just seven One-Day Internationals and a single fifty. It may have helped him understand failure better, as he took young players under his wing.  
"It seems so counter-intuitive," wrote Ed Smith, author and current England selector, "that professional sportsmen are psychologically at risk. Sport begins as a dream. Why, then, does the dream sometimes sour? The drive which motivates sportsmen is the same drive which leaves them perpetually dissatisfied. Having climbed one rung, sportsmen just want to focus on the next heave upwards – a ladder that never ends."



V.B. Chandrasekhar was many things to many people. • COURTESY TWITTER

# Team India faces selection quandary

A difficult choice between Rohit and Rahane if it opts for a fifth bowler

## INDIA IN WI

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)  
The Indian team management will be fretting on possible combinations for the first Test against the West Indies with a difficult choice between Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane if it opts for a fifth specialist bowler.  
Unless India goes with a safety-first four-bowler strategy which allows both Test and ODI vice-captain to figure in the scheme of things, one of them would be cooling heels and it could be Rahane going by his wretched form in red-ball cricket.

**Moot point**  
The moot point will be whether the Kohli-Ravi Shastri duo goes for an additional sixth batsman or an extra bowler for the first Test starting on Thursday.  
If the Indian team's think-tank employs conservative strategy, K.L. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal should be opening the innings but Rahul, it may be recalled, was dropped for the last two Test matches in Australia with Hanuma Vihari opening.  
If one looks at the pattern



**Pace power:** While Ishant Sharma, right, is a certainty, Umesh Yadav's inclusion depends on the team's policy. • COURTESY BCCI

of playing XI selections, Vihari, who batted at No. 3 and scored a fifty in the warm-up game against West Indies-A, could once again open in the first Test if Rahul's poor Test record during the past one year is taken into account.  
Pujara and Kohli are the two pillars at No. 3 and 4 respectively but the problem starts after that.  
**Unenviable task**  
With Rishabh Pant expected to come in at No. 6 and Ra-

vindra Jadeja with his all-round skills bringing in the necessary balance at No. 7 in the absence of an injured Hardik Pandya, Kohli may be left with an unenviable task of putting either Rahane or Rohit on the chopping block.  
The only option to include both is to go for a four-bowler strategy with three pacers in Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, along with R. Ashwin or Kuldeep Yadav as the lone spinner.

## Smith out of third Test

Not enough time to recover: Langer

### THE ASHES

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
LONDON

Australia's star batsman Steve Smith has been ruled out of the third Ashes Test beginning on Thursday after suffering concussion, a decision which coach Justin Langer said was a "no-brainer".  
The 30-year-old Smith, who has scored two centuries and 92 in his three innings in the first two Tests, was felled by a Jofra Archer bouncer in the first innings of the second Test at Lord's.  
"When we followed the protocols, he was probably a couple of days off being fit to be selected," said Langer.  
"It was really a no brainer. He felt a bit better yesterday [Monday] but he's not going to have enough time to tick off everything he's got to do. It's not unlike England losing James Anderson. He's arguably their best bowler and we're going to lose arguably our best batsman for this Test," said Langer.  
"It is always a blow, no doubt about that. When you take your best players out, it always has an impact."  
"We have to make sure our senior players and the younger guys step up and fill what are almost unfillable shoes because he's the best player in the world."  
The team doctor Richard Saw had the final say on whether Smith played or not, and he was seen speaking with him during team training on Tuesday. Smith was seen with his head in his hands and Langer looking glumly at the ground.



**Big blow:** Australia will miss Smith, who is yet to fully recover after being felled by an Archer bouncer. • AFP

## Sreesanth's ban ends in August 2020

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Tainted India pacer S. Sreesanth's ban for alleged spot-fixing will end next August, BCCI Ombudsman D.K. Jain has ordered, observing that the cricketer is well past his prime having already served six years.  
**Reduced to seven years**  
In an order passed on August 7, Jain said "ends of justice" would be met by making it a seven-year suspension and letting him play next year.  
**'Itching to get back'**  
P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
KOZHIKODE  
S. Sreesanth is delighted that his wait is finally over and that he could return to cricket next year.  
"I was expecting this, but was still keeping my fingers crossed," the seamer told *The Hindu*, reacting to the BCCI ombudsman D.K. Jain's order on Tuesday. "I am itching to get back to cricket."  
He was in fact on his way to practice when he talked over phone from Kochi. "I had never given up hope and tried to keep myself in shape and train whenever I could," said Sreesanth, who took 87 wickets from 27 Tests before his life turned upside down following the IPL spot-fixing scandal in



S. Sreesanth. • FILE PHOTO

2013. "My first priority is to get back into my best shape."  
He added he would cancel all his other commitments so that he could focus on cricket.  
"I have to complete one Kannada film in which I am playing the hero; but its shooting will be over by October," he said.

## Anti-concussion helmets: BCCI briefs players

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

The BCCI has briefed its players on the importance of wearing anti-concussion helmets, but left the decision to use neck guard on the cricketers despite growing calls to make it mandatory.  
Compulsory neck guards on helmets for Australian cricketers are "not far away", the national team's sports medicine chief said on Monday after Jofra  
"Once the new rules on concussion came into effect, the BCCI briefed the captain and the coaching staff. We have told them about helmets with anti-concussion element – neck guards."  
"A few players, including Shikhar Dhawan, use it but we can't force them. Helmet is also a matter of comfort," said a senior BCCI official, privy to the development. He informed that after the Phil Hughes tragedy, the BCCI had asked its players to speak to their respective helmet suppliers.



# Dharmaraj Cheralathan — going on and on and on

Credits the longevity to maintaining his fitness, diet and weight

## PKL

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN  
CHENNAI

Longevity is Dharmaraj Cheralathan's thing as a kabaddi player. He's 44 years old and says he's played for around 25 years now.

So much so, his 16-year-old son Aditya, he says, will try and get into the ProKabaddi League (PKL) in two years. "He's studying in Pune now. He's been practising. When he's 18, he'll try and get into the league.

"My desire is to play until then. But I don't know if I can. Let's see.

### On coaching

"Those who've played with me have become coaches now! I'll think about it (coaching), but I definitely want to do something for ka-

baddi in my village after I retire."

Cheralathan, who captains Haryana Steelers in the ongoing PKL season, has started playing kabaddi for fun in his village Thiruchennampoon di in Thanjavur district.

He endorses the portrayal of the conduct of kabaddi tournaments in the Tamil movie "Vennila Kabaddi Kuzhu" as being similar to how it was like playing kabaddi in his early days.

"We (his team from the village) used to go to a lot of places to play tournaments. We especially used to play in the night."

It was in 1995, when he played for the Sun Paper Mill Ltd. for six months that he had his first coach. "That was when I had my first taste of professional training. Until

then, I had no coach. Christopher sir was my first coach."

By that time, he had already started playing for the State team. So, he also played his first Nationals that year. The first of "around 22" Nationals he's played so far. In 1997, he'd been employed with the Railways and has been representing the team in the Nationals until now.

"I think I've won around 13 gold medals. Only four or five times, have I gone without a medal in the Nationals."

Having played many Nationals and won many medals is what he's proud of. That, he says, is his biggest achievement.

He owes his 2016 World Cup selection to his collective performance in the first four seasons of the PKL. He picks the World Cup and the

1999 South Asian Games as the two remarkable big-ticket tournaments he's played so far.

### Only regret

"My only regret is that I haven't got to play in the Asian Games."

He adds as an afterthought: "But I think my long career and the Nationals medals make up for it."

He's had his share of injuries, but says he doesn't remember considering retirement at any point in his career. "When I think about it, even ten years of playing is a big achievement. So, what I've done makes me feel proud.

"I've been relentless in maintaining my fitness, diet and weight. That's what is so important for a long career, I believe."



**Silver jubilee star:** At 41 years old — 25 of those playing kabaddi — Dharmaraj Cheralathan wants to carry on till his son starts playing professionally in a couple of years. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Rutuja loses the plot

SPORTS BUREAU  
CGUIYANG (CHINA)

Rutuja Bhosale lost her way after a robust start, saved five matchpoints, but finally lost 0-6, 7-5, 7-5 to Su Jeong Jang of Korea in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Tuesday.

**Other results:**  
**\$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta, Indonesia:** **Singles (first round):** Alexander Crnokrak (Aus) bt Karunoday Singh 6-2, 6-2; Jumpei Yamasaki (Jpn) bt Kunal Anand 6-3, 6-2.  
**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Matthew Romios (Aus) & Aryan Goveas bt Bill Duo (US) & Anthony Susanto (Ina) 6-4, 6-4.  
Niki Poonacha & Manish Sureshkumar bt Dusty Boyer (US) & Ray Ho (Tpe) 6-4, 2-6, [10-7]; Justin Barki (Ina) & Ruan Roelofse (RSA) bt Kunal Anand & Rishi Reddy 6-1, 4-6, [10-6].

## Officials need to keep fit, says Sandhiya

She's been a match official in the PKL for the second consecutive season now

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN  
CHENNAI

Former kabaddi player M.K. Sandhiya has been a match official in the ProKabaddi League for the second consecutive season now.

"They selected a fresh batch last year. I was picked from the selection in Chennai, attended a workshop in Mumbai and was initiated into the league," says the 29-year-old who works as a physical education teacher in a school in Vellore.

She had been officiating in the all-India, south zone and State tournaments before the PKL.

There are seven match officials for a PKL match. The referee, two umpires, two line umpires, and two assistant referees.

According to her, an offi-



M.K. Sandhiya.

cial will be assigned for both matches on the day (there are single match-days as well).

### Imagining

"Once I get to know, I go on the mat and prepare — practising signals and coordination with the other officials. We imagine match situations and react to them.

"For instance, we'll imagine that a raider has entered the lobby without a touch, and I will signal to the line umpire who has to make proper eye contact with me."

She says there are two sets of match officials — groups A & B. Each group has 14 members, she added. "I belong to group-A. Each group is assigned six venues. This (Chennai) is our group's third venue after Hyderabad and Patna. We'll next go to

Bengaluru, Pune and Panchkula."

Two out of the nine women officials are from Tamil Nadu.

She says the officials need to keep fit throughout the season. "Morning gym workout is mandatory for us."

They attend a camp for around eight days just before the league begins. "Besides fitness training, there is this workshop for practising signals, pronunciation, and voice modulation and clarity. Like, we practise pronouncing team names and how to talk in the match.

### Tests

"For instance, saying things like 'raider safe, one point to Gujarat Fortunegiants; or, defender out of bounds.' We also take tests in which we'll

have to write how we'll handle the given match situations."

Kabaddi is a rapid, alternating game of small margins; errors in judgement dearly cost teams.

She says she finds a match official needs to have focus and observe very carefully. "The primary aim is to not make any mistake."

She added that the match officials (all 14) attend a near-one-hour review meeting headed by the league's technical director Prasad Rao in the morning after every match day.

Asked to name a greatly skilled player in the ongoing season, from a match official's perspective, she said, "I would say Naveen (Kumar) of Dabang Delhi. He's real quick and shrewd!"

## India to bid for 2024 Worlds

### TABLE TENNIS

A. VINOD  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) has decided to bid for the 2024 World championships with the support of the Union Government.

During an interaction with *The Hindu* here on Tuesday, TTFI secretary M.P. Singh, TTFI advisor Dhanraj Choudhary, and newly elected president of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Association Vivek Kohli said the federation has already sounded its intentions to key officials of the International Table Tennis Federation recently and has received a positive response.

The bid process is to start next year. The Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has offered all possible

help for the development of the game through the last three years, enhancing the financial outlay for table tennis to ₹12 crore last year. "We are hopeful that the Government will also support us in bringing the World championships back to India," they said.

### Olympic qualification

In the next few months TTFI will have to ensure the Indian men's team qualification for next year's Olympics in Tokyo. With this in mind, it has lined up a coaching camp in China, prior to next month's Asian championships in Indonesia. This will be followed by a camp each in Germany and Portugal before the team qualification process is held in the Iberian nation in January 2020.

Efforts are also being made to help Achant

rath Kamal and Manika Batra get a Olympics qualification spot in mixed doubles.

### New coach

Likewise, the TTFI is also involved in the identification of a new foreign coach for India's senior teams, now that the Canadian coach who was supposed to join the side early this month pulled out of his commitment due to a knee injury.

"We hope to sort this out within the next few weeks so much so that the new coach will be able to join the players prior to the qualifying team event in Portugal."

Giving in to players' demand, TTFI has also decided to use a same quality brand of balls in all tournaments henceforth. TTFI top brass was also all praise for the conduct of the ongoing South Zone championships.

## Ankita played like a top-100 player: Narendranath

The coach, who is guiding her in New York, says he wants her to serve better

### TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

Travelling with a coach is a rare luxury for Ankita Raina. At the Grand Slams where she has been trying to qualify into the main draw in recent times, she has travelled with her long-time coach Hemant Bendrey.

The 26-year-old Ankita, who had a bright start, beating the ninth seed Ysaline Bonaventure of Belgium 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 in the first qualifying round of the US Open, has the experienced coach Surath Narendranath to guide her in New York.

### Very good match

"Ankita played a very good match yesterday. She played like a top-100 player in the first set. She could not maintain that level in the second set, and made many unforced errors. She regrouped and played very tough in the third set which helped her



**Welcome addition:** Ankita Raina should benefit from the services of a travelling coach. ■FILE PHOTO: ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

pull through the match." summed up Narendranath, who had travelled with Sania Mirza in the US circuit in 2006.

Meanwhile, Bendrey clarified about the coaching assistance to Ankita, from his base in Pune.

"I was with Ankita for the last 45 days. So, had to come back to look after my academy. Chubby (Narendranath) is not only my friend, but my guru for coaching. I used to

work with him for a long time, and have learnt coaching from him. He has agreed to travel whenever possible," said Bendrey.

Narendranath runs his coaching centre in Hyderabad, and had worked with Sania for a long time as well, apart from a bunch of good players.

### Started believing

"I have always believed that Ankita is a top-100 player.

She will soon be achieving it. I think, slowly, she has also started believing in it," said Bendrey, about his ward who won the Asian Games singles bronze medal last year.

For the 194th-ranked Ankita, it was a commendable performance to beat Ysaline whom she had defeated in 2009 in the junior circuit and in 2014 in the professional circuit.

"I want Ankita to serve better and maintain good level of play through the course of the whole match," said Narendranath about Ankita's second round against Denisa Allertova of the Czech Republic.

"This is my second tournament with Ankita. Hopefully, will be travelling more in the future," said Narendranath.

Travelling with a coach will not be a rarity for Ankita any more, and that should hasten her progress to the higher echelons of the game.

## Areeba finishes 29th

SPORTS BUREAU  
LAHTI

Areeba Khan shot 64 out of 75, with rounds of 18, 24 and 22, in women's skeet in a field of 72 shooters in the Shotgun World Cup on Tuesday.

The 29th-placed Areeba was nine points behind leader Caitlin Connor of the United States. The other Indian shooters — Karttiki Shaktawat (58) and former National champion Saniya Sheikh (57) — were way behind.

Two more rounds on Wednesday will be followed by the final for the top six.

National champion Maheshwari Chauhan, competing in the MQS section, shot 62, following rounds of 20, 20 and 22.

### Riding to glory



**Creating a ripple:** Fouaad Mirza, who won a silver in the individual and team event at the 2018 Asian Games, has been recommended for the 2019 Arjuna award. The 27-year-old trains at the Embassy International Riding School (Bengaluru). He became the first Indian to win an Asian Games individual medal in equestrian since 1982. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



IN BRIEF



Holder is West Indies Test Player of the Year

ST. JOHNS (ANTIGUA)  
Jason Holder, West Indies skipper in Test and ODIs, has bagged the West Indies Test Player of the Year award at the seventh CWI/WIPA Awards 2019.  
**Other awards:** Shai Hope: ODI Player of the Year. Keemo Paul: T20I Player of the Year. Oshane Thomas: Emerging Player of the Year. Rahkeem Cornwall: Championship Player of the Year. Andre Russell: Caribbean T20 player. Deandra Dottin: Women Player of the Year, Women's ODI Player of the Year and the T20 Player of the Year.



Rashid Khan to lead Afghanistan

KABUL  
Spinner Rashid Khan will lead Afghanistan in its one-off Test against Bangladesh and the triangular series featuring Zimbabwe. The Test will begin on September 5.

**The squads: Test:** Rashid Khan (captain), Asghar Afghan, Mohammad Nabi, Ihsanullah, Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Zahir Khan, Javed Ahmadi, Ahmad Shirzad, Yamin Ahmadzai, Afsar Zazai (wk), Shapoor Zadran, Qais Ahmad.



Murray loses to Sandgren in round one

WASHINGTON  
Andy Murray fell in the first round of the ATP Winston-Salem Open, losing to the 73rd-ranked American Tennys Sandgren 7-6(8), 7-5 in a contest lasting two hours and 10 minutes. The Brit showed glimpses of his once-dominant self, but was inconsistent.



Satterthwaite announces pregnancy

WELLINGTON  
New Zealand's women's cricket captain Amy Satterthwaite will take a break from the game as she is expecting her first child. In a statement, Satterthwaite said she is expecting her first child with wife and teammate Lea Tahuhi in January next year. Satterthwaite said she would continue to be a "mentor" for the team during the break.



Dembele injured, out for five weeks

BARCELONA  
Ousmane Dembele, Barcelona's French international striker, will miss five weeks after suffering a hamstring injury, the club said.

Williamson, Dananjaya's actions reported

DUBAI  
New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya have been reported for suspect bowling action after the first Test between the two sides in Galle, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Tuesday. Both are off-spinners and their bowling actions came under scrutiny during the opening Test which ended on Sunday. "The match officials' report, which was handed over to the management of both teams, cited concerns about the legality of the bowling actions of both players," the ICC statement read.

India men, women make it to the final

Mandeep stars with a hat-trick as men swamp Japan; women hold China goalless

OLYMPIC TEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
TOKYO  
Striker Mandeep Singh struck a fine hat-trick to help the Indian men's hockey team beat host Japan 6-3 and enter the final in the Olympic Test Event here on Tuesday.  
The Indian team bounced back from its 1-2 loss against New Zealand with an impressive display in its third match at the Oi Hockey Stadium here. India again faces New Zealand in the summit clash on Wednesday.  
Mandeep found the target in the 9th, 29th and 30th minutes while Nilakanta Sharma (3), Nilam Sanjeep Xess (7) and Gurjant Singh (41) were the other scorers for India.  
Kentaro Fukuda (25th), Kenta Tanaka (36th) and Kazuma Murata (52nd) scored the goals for Japan.



Star of the match: Mandeep Singh was at his fluent best as India outplayed Japan.

**Excellent story**  
Nilakanta gave India an excellent start through a field goal in the third minute. Buoyed by the early lead, the Indian team put tremendous pressure on the Japan defence as Gurjant Singh took a shot on goal, but saw his effort going wide of the post.

Soon Nilam Sanjeep converted a penalty-corner for the team to go 2-0 up.  
India continued to be aggressive and Mandeep found the back of the net with an excellent field goal in the ninth minute.  
Japan tried to make inroads in the last few minutes of the first quarter and won a penalty corner. Gurinder

Singh positioned himself brilliantly and defended the shot on the goal line. India led 3-0 at the end of the first quarter.  
Japan managed to open its account through Kentaro Fukuda who scored a field goal in the 25th minute, but Mandeep stuck in quick succession in the 29th and 30th to help India take a 5-1 lead.  
Japan started the third quarter on an aggressive note and found a field goal through Kenta Tanaka in the 36th minute.  
India forward Gurjant found the back of the net in the 41st minute to make it 6-2. Japan scored its third goal through Kazuma Murata in the 52nd minute.  
The win put India in the second spot in the points table and its faces topper New Zealand in the summit clash on Wednesday.

**Women impressive**  
Following an impressive performance against Australia, the Indian women's team on Tuesday secured its place in the final of the Olympic test event by playing out a 0-0 draw against China here.  
The Indian team looked in good rhythm during the initial stages of the first quarter, and constantly built pressure on the Chinese defence.  
The side looked comfortable in possession, and rotated the ball well to threaten the opponents in the opening 10 minutes, which also reflected when it won its first penalty corner in the 8th minute.  
India's penalty corner expert Gurjit Kaur stepped up to take the set-piece, but could not find the back of the net as the Chinese Goalkeeper Dongxiao Li deflected the ball away from danger.  
India started the second quarter also with great attacking flair, and won another penalty corner in the 17th minute. Gurjit Kaur tried to aim for the other side this time, but her try was again denied by Li. The following minutes saw both the teams battle it out in midfield, with neither team giving much space and time to their opponents.  
China needed the victory to make sure that they progress to the final but India's defence was up to the task.  
With five points from three matches, India topped the points table, and will now face host Japan in the final on Wednesday.

Davis Cup committee to decide on venue

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) took a concrete decision to let the Davis Cup Committee decide on the fate of the India-Pakistan tie scheduled to be held in Islamabad on September 14 and 15.  
With time running, it was a step forward in the current scenario, as the ITF was trying in vain to impress upon the All India Tennis Association (AITA) about the strong security arrangements at the venue.  
The planned tele-conference between the AITA, Davis Cup team captain Mahesh Bhupathi, with the ITF and the concerned security agency in Pakistan, which was postponed from Monday, did not take place.  
The Davis Cup committee – with Ismail El Shafey of Egypt as the chairman and seven members including Olympic gold medalist and multiple Grand Slam champion Mark Woodforde of Australia – will take up the matter with the national federations concerned.  
The AITA had quoted the prevailing tension between the two countries and had demanded the ITF to take a *suo moto* decision to either postpone the tie or shift it to a neutral venue.  
Once the Davis Cup committee decides on the subject, it will convey the same to the ITF Board of Directors, for suitable follow up action.

Can East Bengal stop Gokulam's run?

Bagan will look to get past Real Kashmir in the other semifinal

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
KOLKATA

Local favourite East Bengal will take on the impressive Gokulam Kerala FC in the first semifinal of the 129th Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday.  
The climactic phase will see four I-League clubs in the fray after they overcame the challenges posed by the developmental ISL club teams.  
The second semifinal pits Mohun Bagan against Real Kashmir FC.  
Preferring to field their first-choice teams, the I-League clubs have treated this as a pre-season fixture. All the semifinalists remained unbeaten in the league stages.  
**Different ambitions**  
The Kolkata giants – East Bengal and Bagan – have both won the title 16 times each and will be eager to add to the collection. On the other hand, newcomers like Gokulam and Real Kashmir will be driven by the desire to clinch their maiden crown.  
The opening semifinal will witness two sides with in-form foreigners battling it out. East Bengal has Spain's Jaime Colado and Borja Gomez in attack and defence while France's Kassim Aidara will man the midfield.  
For Gokulam, striker Marcus Joseph of Trinidad and Tobago has been the cynosure, performing two hat-tricks in three matches.  
His compatriot Andre Etienne and Brazilian Bruno Pellissari complete the team's spine through their strong presence in defence and midfield.  
Both East Bengal and Gokulam have invested in young Indians, some of whom are already looking to make it big.  
In the other last-four match, Bagan and Real Kashmir will seek to strike the right balance between foreign and Indian recruits.

Garg to lead India u-23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Uttar Pradesh's Priyam Garg, 18, will lead the India under-23 team in the five-match one-day cricket series against Bangladesh u-23 at Raipur.  
The matches will be played on September 19, 21,

23, 25 and 27.  
**The team:** Priyam Garg (capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Madhav Kaushik, B.R. Sharath (wk), Samarth Vyas, Aryan Juyal (wk), Ritwik Roy Choudhary, Kumar Suraj, Atit Seth, Shubhang Hegde, Hrithik Shokeen, Dhruv Soni, Arshdeep Singh, Kartik Tyagi, and Harpreet Brar.

Sushil Kumar books berth in style

The 74kg category was the focus in the trials on Tuesday

WRESTLING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar, who had a bitter tussle with the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) over the 74kg quota place prior to the 2016 Rio Olympics, recorded comprehensive wins in the National selection trials on Tuesday, and claimed the men's freestyle 74kg berth in the Indian squad for the upcoming World Championships – the first major Olympic qualifying event – in Kazakhstan.  
The 36-year-old Sushil's selection clears his path for a quota place in next year's Tokyo Olympics.  
All eyes were on the 74kg category, the lone Olympic weight class among the



Sushil.

men's freestyle sections in the trials held in Delhi on Tuesday.

**Easing through**  
Sushil convincingly defeated Vinod, who had overcome Gaurav Baliyan, 3-0 to set up a bout with Jitender.

Shashank rallies to post win

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU  
CHANDIGARH

Shashank Teertha recovered from a slow start to beat seventh seed Lakshya Gupta 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Tuesday.

**Lively encounter**  
In another lively encounter, Irfan Husain beat Jagmeet Singh 6-4, 6-7(3), 7-6(5).  
Top seed V.M. Ranjeet and second seed Dalwinder Singh progressed smoothly into the second round.  
**The results (first round):** VM Ranjeet bt Taha Kapadia 6-3, 6-3; Digvijay Singh Mehta bt

Puru Upadhyay 7-6(9), 6-2; Irfan Husain bt Jagmeet Singh 6-4, 6-7(3), 7-6(5); Faisal Qamar bt Tushar Mada.  
6-1, 6-4; Jatin Dahiya bt Parav Dev Garg 6-4, 6-1; Abhish-ek Gaur bt Shivank Bhatnagar 6-2, 6-2; Hardeep Singh Sandhu bt Neeraj Yashpaul 6-4, 7-5.  
Shashank Teertha bt Lakshya Gupta 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; Calvin Golmei bt Anurag Nenwani 6-1, 6-4; Megh Patel bt Ominder Baisoya 6-0, 6-4.  
Ayyoouque Ahmed Khan bt Ravikiran Ribhav 6-4, 6-4; Surraj Prabodh bt Drona Walia 6-2, 6-3.  
Armaan Bhatia bt KS Dheeraj 6-1, 7-5.  
Gunjan Jadhav bt LR Balaji 4-6, 6-3, 4-2 (conceded); Deepender Singh Bains bt Atharav Sharma 6-2, 6-2.  
Dalwinder Singh bt Udit Kamboj 6-1, 6-2.

Overseas experience may help India

The host looks to reclaim the SAFF under-15 football title

Y.B. SARANGI  
KALYANI

Useful exposure trips in Italy and Thailand hold India in good stead as it aspires to reclaim the SAFF under-15 football championship, starting at the Kalyani Stadium here on Wednesday.  
Even in the absence of a quality side and last year's runner-up Pakistan, the tournament is expected to be a keen affair among the development squads of the South East Asian nations – including defending champion Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.  
India coach Bibiano Fernandes said this would be a good preparation for the AFC Asian under-16 championship qualifier next month.

Fernandez hoped that the overseas experience would help the first-time host regain the title for a third time.  
"We started our preparation in February. We had an exposure trip to Italy in May. We played against some good teams and made a lot of changes there. We also had a good trip to Thailand (last month), where we fielded the core of the team," said Fernandez on Tuesday.

**Home advantage**  
While India, captained by local boy and central defender Anish Mazumder, would have the advantage of playing in front of the home crowd, it would have to bear with the fatigue due to the long drive from Kolkata owing to hotel issues here.

**We started our preparation in February**

BIBIANO FERNANDES  
India coach

"It's a three-hour drive. But we have got gaps and have to adapt and recover in time," said Fernandes.  
Mazumder was excited to lead the National side in his backyard. "Feels good to be playing at home. We learnt a lot playing abroad. Now we look forward to do well here," he said.  
India, which had managed a third-place finish after losing to eventual champion Bangladesh in the semifinals on tie-breaker in the event in Nepal last year, will meet Nepal in the opening match.

Pogba penalty miss costs Manchester United dear

Wolves fight back and hold the Red Devils to a draw

PREMIER LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
Paul Pogba pulled his jersey over his face when the final whistle sounded, his latest spot-kick failure costing Manchester United two points and casting doubt over the wisdom of the team rotating its penalty-takers.  
The France midfielder saw his 68th-minute attempt saved – his fourth penalty miss in the past year – as United had to settle for 1-1 at Wolverhampton Wanderers in the English Premier League on Monday.  
Pogba won the penalty af-



Fluffed shot: Paul Pogba reacts after his penalty is saved by goalkeeper Rui Patricio.

ter being tripped by Wolves defender Conor Coady and opted to take the kick himself after talking with Marcus Rashford.  
"The two of them are designated penalty-takers," United manager Ole Gunnar

Solskjaer said. "It's up to them, there and then."  
"Marcus scored last week but Paul was also confident. I like players with confidence."  
Rashford said Pogba "wanted to take it, it's that simple."  
"Anyone can miss a penalty," Rashford said. "He has scored so many penalties and it is normal to miss one. I took one last week, so for me it's no problem that he took it. It's unfortunate he didn't score but that's football."  
**The result:** Wolves 1 (Neves 55) drew with Man United 1 (Martial 27).

Ankita in second round; Ramkumar ousted

US OPEN QUALIFIERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW YORK

India's Ankita Raina knocked out ninth seed Belgian Ysaline Bonaventure to progress to the second round of the US Open Qualifiers but Ramkumar Ramanathan bit the dust in the men's singles.  
The 194th ranked Ankita was up against a higher-ranked player but prevailed 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 for her second win against the Belgian on the Pro Tour.  
She had beaten Bonaventure in her own country on

clay in 2014.  
Ankita converted five of the six breakpoints and saved five of the eight chances on her own her serve.  
"I started solid. There were a very few unforced errors in the first set."  
"I stayed longer in the points and kept her moving. She had aggressive forehand and when she was in position, she would absolutely kill. So I had to make sure to keep her on the run," Ankita said.  
In men's singles, Italy's Filippo Baldi downed Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-5, 7-6(9).

Easy for RFS

NEW DELHI: Reliance Foundation School (RFS) defeated Jharkhand 4-1 in a under-14 category Pool 'A' match of the Subroto Cup football tournament at the Ambedkar Stadium here on Tuesday.  
Reliance Foundation School took the lead through Sanathoi Singh in the fourth minute. Sanathoi added another in the 22nd and a minute later, Srija Rai made it 3-0. A goal by Akash Hembram for Jharkhand at half-time reduced the margin.  
A 38th-minute goal by Aditya Dhingra sealed the contest in Reliance's favour.